

Hafa Adai!

MVA eyes 2 major projects for completion this year.

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Man hurt in 'unprovoked' beating, loses money.

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75¢

Friday deadline to comply with the Govt Vehicle Act

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero is giving all government employees, including lawmakers and elected officials, until Friday to comply with the mandates of the Government Vehicle Act.

See FRIDAY on Page 4

\$100,000 cash bail for cop in 'ice' case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio increased yesterday to \$100,000 the initial \$25,000 cash bail that the court had imposed on Police Officer 1 Carl Kohler Tudela, who was arrested Friday night for allegedly buying methamphetamine or "ice."

Tudela, 38, who is assigned with the Department of Public Safety's Patrol Section, was taken to Superior

See \$100,000 on Page 4

'Restricted airspaces may impact civilian flights'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Restricted airspace between Saipan and Tinian could add a "whole new level of complexity" to civilian travel between the islands, according to local civilian carrier Star Marianas.

The U.S. Department of Defense has proposed the establishment of eight of these restricted areas, "to be activated independently, in multiple segments, or in

See RESTRICTED on Page 4



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

The Best Sunshine International, Ltd. team presents their proposed archaeological recovery project in Garapan at a public hearing yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. In the background are the CNMI regulatory officials who must approve the major siting permit for the project.

DENNIS B. CHAN

INSIDE



NATION

Thousands crowd an Alabama bridge for the Bloody Sunday anniversary.

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ASIA

Families of those aboard MH Flight 370 vow to never to give up the search.

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LIFE & STYLE

Saipan can be discovered with new eyes—with each snap of a camera.

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DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES 2015 PARENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP *Thank You!*



On behalf of the DCCA Division of Youth Services, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Office of the Governor, DCCA Office of the Secretary, parent leaders, volunteers, community partners, workshop participants, National Office Supply, Marpac, IT&E, Fiesta Resort & Spa, P.I.C., Rep. Francis Taimanao, Marianas Resort & Spa, CDDC, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Rep. Joseph Lee Guerrero, Modern Stationery Office Supply, Herman's Modern Bakery, Kanoa Resort Hotel, Rep. Demapan, CCDF, NAP, WIC, Homeland Security, Tinian Mayor's Office, Green Meadow School, Marianas High School Color Guard, NMC CREES, NMC School of Education, Lucy Schilling, Raegina Castro, public and private schools who have contributed in one way or another to the success of the 2015 Parent Leadership Month.



CONGRATULATIONS 2015 EXEMPLARY PARENT LEADERS:

Wayne Pangelinan (San Vicente Elementary School), Normie Cania (San Vicente Elementary School), Rosie Muna (Kobler Elementary School), Priscila Dulay (Kobler Elementary School), Evangeline Sablan (Kagman Elementary School), Gary M. Villagomez (Kagman Elementary School), Ramona Borja (Green Meadow School), Jymma A. Pamintuan (Green Meadow School), Minda Castro (WSR Elementary School), Icy Maximo (WSR Elementary School), Vanessa Charfauros (Sinapalo Elementary School), MaryLou Quitugua (Sinapalo Elementary School), Barbara Sablan (Dandan Middle School), Jacob Lizama (Dandan Middle School), Rosalie Litulumar (Oleai Elementary School), Jonah Lagota (Grace Christian Academy Tinian), Evangeline Villar (Mt. Carmel School), Luis Camacho (Mt. Carmel School), Aurelia Long (Tinian Elementary School), Augusta W. Famaw (Tinian Elementary School) and Karrie Fernandez (Kagman High School)



Simiyan Manainata



Green Meadow School



EXHIBITORS:

AYUDA Network, Inc. & CDC, Commonwealth Respite Services Prog. (CRSP), Public School System Head Start, Commonwealth Cancer Association, CHCC-DPH Home Visiting Program, CAMI/Trankilu Alternative Financing Program, CHCC-CCC/BCS Program, CHCC-DPH Dental Clinic — Oral Health Program, Northern Marianas Humanities Council — Motherhead/Fatherhead Prog., CDAC Early Intervention, Family Violence Task Force, CNMI Women's Association, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, NCD Bureau (Public Health), MHS Youth Advisory Panel — Volunteers.

The Annual CNMI Parent Leadership Month Planning Committee

Chairperson: Penelope Norita | **Co-Chair:** Ray Cruz | **Secretary:** Laura Cruz

Members: Diana Camacho, Emi Williams, Rosie Muna, Mary Jane Fleming, Priscila Dulay, Kristina Matsunaga, Sr. Stella Mangona, Somjai Ada, Candido Ada, Evangeline Sablan, Yukiko Nithitani, Dao Mettao, Candy Panaga, Marisa Pagpoc, Milagros Songcuan

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Local

First Cabinet meeting focuses on performance review, questioned costs

By JOEL D. PINAROC
Joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration held its first official Cabinet meeting on Monday on Capital Hill, focusing on a proposed performance review of Cabinet members and audits for the different departments.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres presided over the three-hour meeting, a statement from the Office of the Governor said.

The administration is looking at a performance review every two years for the different department heads based on "measurable performance goals."

Cabinet members will be requested to send their respective current projects and objectives, and after two years, will be subject to review to see if those objectives have been met, the statement said.

The administration will then "assess the performance of Cabinet officials based on progress toward meeting those goals."

The statement further said the second issue discussed was "questioned costs" and grant audits for the different departments.

A questioned cost is defined as "a cost that is questioned by the office for the following reasons, including alleged violation of a provision of a law, regulation, contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement or document governing the expenditure of funds."

Inos has acknowledged that questioned costs can jeopardize much-needed grant funding and that Cabinet officials should

commit the necessary resources to clearing these audit findings from their departments and agencies.

Cabinet officials each took turns updating the governor on their department, budget submissions, current projects, pressing issues, and successes.

"We have a lot of goals that we wish to accomplish and challenges we must address in this new administration. We need all hands on deck to push the CNMI forward and improve lives for the people of our islands. In today's meeting I wanted my Cabinet to know that

I expect much from them and I fully intend to hold them accountable to achieve success in their roles with this administration," Inos said in the statement. For Torres, the meeting was "productive."

"Our Cabinet is comprised of both young and seasoned public servants. It has always been my goal to offer the public an administration driven by realizing gains for our community and we have a team that shares in that vision," he said.

Present at the meeting were the heads of the departments of Lands and Natural Resources, Community and Cultural Affairs, Commerce, Labor, Public Works, Corrections, Public Safety, and Finance; Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Office of Management and Budget, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Public Defender's Office.



Inos



Bordallo raises concerns on Compact impact during DOI's budget hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo attended Thursday last week a hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources to discuss the President's budget proposal for the Department of the Interior for fiscal year 2016. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel testified before the Committee.

During the hearing, Bordallo raised strong concerns over the DOI's request to decrease discretionary Compact-impact for fiscal year 2016. The President's budget requests a decrease in discretionary Compact-impact through the Office of Insular Affairs from \$3 million to \$1.3 million for fiscal year 2016; \$30

million in mandatory spending remains intact. Bordallo successfully worked with the Appropriations Committee to reject a similar request last year and restore funding to \$3 million for discretionary funding. She recognizes that the impacts the Compacts have had on Guam's treasury, and she has urged the DOI to make Compact-impact a higher priority for the territories.

"I remain very concerned about the Administration's request to decrease Compact-impact discretionary funds from the \$3 million enacted last year to \$1.3 million in the President's request," said Bordallo. "I was disappointed to see this

See BORDALLO on Page 4

MVA eyes 2 major projects for completion this year

The Marianas Visitors Authority is eyeing to complete two major projects this year: the street lighting of the whole stretch of the Beach Road path-

way and repairs of the road going to Mt. Tapochau.

Beach Road and Mt. Tapochau are two of the most frequented tourist areas on Saipan.

According to Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), the MVA disclosed the projects during a meeting on Friday.

Guerrero, who heads the

House Committee on Tourism, earlier requested the MVA to discuss the tourism body's specific plans to improve tourism.

The two projects, according

to Guerrero, were discussed at the meeting. "These are the biggest projects for the MVA in 2015," Guerrero said.

The lawmaker said lighting



Guerrero

up the pathway along Beach Road, from Kilili Beach all the way to Garapan, is primarily "for the

safety of tourists."

The road repair on Mt. Tapochau is also meant to make the trip safer for tourists going to the landmark site.

The MVA has promised to complete the two projects in 2015, Guerrero said. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

Kagman road groundbreaking on Thurs.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Kagman III residents' longstanding problem with its dilapidated roads will soon end as the Department of Public Works will finally break ground on new road construction this Thursday, according to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guer-

rero (Ind-Saipan).

After decades of problems with potholes that damage cars, several roads in the village will finally be fixed, courtesy of DPW and Hawaiian Rock Products.

The groundbreaking will be held this Thursday at 9am in Chopak Drive. The project's cost is estimated at

\$506,446.94 for four locations.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the groundbreaking was supposed to take place last Friday but it was rescheduled for Thursday.

Of the four roads targeted for construction, Chopak Drive is the first to see actual work after Thursday's groundbreaking.

The paving project includes three areas in Kagman III—Chopak Drive, Pine Drive, and Mangga Street—and Katbon

Road in San Vicente.

Hawaiian Rock CNMI manager Ponce Eorotan said that after groundbreaking, the company would need about another week for mobilization of the project.

Eorotan said they are trying to finish the road markings before any work could be done.

"Maybe after one week, the following week we'll send some guys to start. We will do the clearing, then we will do the grading and backfilling of the base, and if it is all finished we will do the asphalt

paving," he said.

Hawaiian Rock was given the go-signal to proceed with the project after it received its permit last Feb. 3.

Deleon Guerrero earlier said he will make himself available to be a part of the project team to ensure construction efficiency pursuant to U.S. construction standards.

New DLNR chief prioritizes endangered species survey

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The first order of business for Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman is to sit down with the department's resident directors on Tinian and Rota to discuss concerns about an ongoing endangered species survey on the two islands.

Although he has his own plans, Seman believes the resident directors "know what is best" for their areas of responsibilities, and that the DLNR is ready to allocate resources and time to these areas.

The DLNR chief said one of the topics for discussion is an ongoing endangered species survey that has raised a lot of concerns, particularly in Rota.

"Remember that a survey is not just about number, but also about its social impacts," Seman said.

He emphasized that he does not oppose the proposal from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife re-



Seman

garding the endangered list, but the survey "has to be done properly."

The official said a lot of the listings will impact Rota, where 11 out of the 23 endangered species identified by the U.S Fish and Wildlife are found.

This will require more thorough discussions between the DLNR and U.S Fish and Wildlife, Seman said.

"There is a need to be more engaged, and be more involved in the survey," Seman said, adding that he wants to meet with U.S Fish and Wildlife representatives "as soon as possible."

Seman said he is also set to attend a fisheries council meeting in Honolulu on March 14 to March 18, where he will also have the chance to meet with U.S Fish and Wildlife officials.

State's special education plan may focus on reading results

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Public School System's Special Education Program and its stakeholders are still working on the State Systemic Improvement Plan, or SSIP, ahead of a nationwide April 1 deadline.

In an interview yesterday, SpED director Suzanne Lizama said the state plan will "most likely" focus on reading results for the third grade.

She noted that the third grade is when students begin taking their SAT 10s.

Lizama pointed out, though, that the "work really starts" in Kindergarten and the first and second grades.

Most state plans are expected to focus on literacy, it was learned. Public schools can focus specifically on which areas to target like reading results for students with learn-

ing disabilities, or reading results for certain grade students, for example.

Recently, low reading and math scores in SpED have been noted across the nation.

The SSIP is a federal mandate that essentially lets the states "decide what is it you are going to do increase or improve results for kids with disabilities," according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan in a previous Board of Education meeting.

An SSIP task force has been working on the state plan over the last year. They are composed of principals, general and special education teachers, and curriculum and instruction staff.

The SSIP has been described as a "complete self-assessment" that will lead to a goal statement for the program in coming years.

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Mariana Resort & Spa

SDA has 3D imaging for better patient care

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic is offering a new 3D imaging solution machine to help its staff quickly diagnose complex problems. The new device is called the i-CAT FLX.

"This technology is one-of-a-kind here on Saipan. With this machine we can actually create a 3D image and actually look at hard tissue, teeth, bones, soft tissue of the face, and the head or neck," SDA clinic director Dr. Kenneth Pierson said.

He said 3D i-CAT FLX delivers greater clarity, ease of use,

and control.

These include visual iQuity image technology, QuickScan+ allows for a full-dentition 3D scan at a lower dose than a panoramic image, SmartScan STUDIO's touch screen interface and integrated system yielding more control, and etc.

Pierson noted that aside from Saipan, Guam has the equipment as well.

"We can do an analysis if we wanted to do orthodontics such as moving the teeth, or placing implants, airway analysis, and others. Its kind of the latest and greatest technology for SDA," Pierson said.

"We only have one, but when we use it we can view it in all our computers," he added.

Alan Young, field services manager of i-CAT, trained SDA employees on Sunday on how to use the machine. According to him, they have about 4,000 installations internationally.

"This is our 10th year anniversary for the i-CAT technology and the one that was offered to SDA is the third generation," Young said.

Pierson said the machine allows SDA to scan any areas in the mouth to find out whether a patient needs surgery.



JAYSON CAMACHO

A Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic employee demonstrates the use of the new 3D imaging solution machine called the i-CAT FLX.

FRIDAY

From Page 1

In a news briefing yesterday, Deleon Guerrero urged all government employees to coordinate with the Division of Procurement and Supply to ensure that vehicles assigned to them by their departments are in compliance with the law.

"If it's still not in compliance, then we would have no other choice but to begin the process of not only issuing citations, but impounding their assigned vehicles," he warned.

It was earlier reported that some lawmakers use government or leased vehicles that have tinted windows.

Deleon Guerrero said the law is clear: In the case of vehicles assigned to the Leg-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas hold a news briefing yesterday regarding enforcement of the Government Vehicle Act, the arrest of Police Officer 1 Carl Tudela, and other issues.

islature, if the lease agreement exceeds 60 days, the tint will have to be stripped.

He said lawmakers are allowed to use private license plates but the tinting has to be removed.

Deleon Guerrero said the only exemption on tinting is for law enforcement vehicles.

"We have to put an end to this because it seems that there are still government employees out there ignoring the law," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the Government Vehicle Act has been in the book since 1994 and 1995.

"I guess there's been a lack of enforcement for a long time," he noted.

The commissioner said he wrote letters to every depart-

ment heads within the Executive Branch as well as to autonomous agencies' heads, reminding them that DPS is going to start enforcing the Government Vehicle Act.

"I do not see where the problem is in terms of compliance," he said.

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas said the law clearly says that no government vehicles should be tinted and that includes cars of elected officials.

Macaranas said the only exemptions are law enforcement vehicles assigned to DPS and the Division of Customs.

Macaranas said the marking on the vehicles' doors does not apply to judges and elected officials, but government plates and no tinting apply to them.

\$100,000

From Page 1

Court yesterday on charges of possession of a controlled substance and misconduct in public office.

If Tudela makes bail, he will be subjected to a daily 7pm to 7am curfew and required to have no contact with any places or people involved in the case.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 17 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Tudela.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas moved to increase the bail amount considering that Tudela is a law enforcer and because of the seriousness of the charges.

Office of the Attorney General investigator George F. David stated in his report that the OAG Investigation Division, Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force, and the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Bureau of Investigation jointly investigated Tudela's drug activities on Wednesday.

David said the information they gathered indicated that Tudela's activities involve smoking and purchasing "ice" while on or off duty.

David said the joint team's investigators met with a cooper-

ating source on Friday at 7am to prepare for a "control-reverse" operation against Tudela.

The cooperating source allegedly previously sold "ice" to Tudela and had witnessed the officer purchasing drugs from another known meth distributor about two months prior.

David said their operation involved having the cooperating source meet with Tudela to talk about "ice" and to determine if he was willing to buy "ice."

At 8:30am Friday, investigators began surveillance at the SH Apartment in San Antonio, just north of San Antonio Elementary School, where the officer stays in one of the rooms.

The cooperating source had allegedly previously accompanied another meth distributor who had sold "ice" to the suspect at his apartment.

At 8:40am, the cooperating source met with Tudela at the staircase of the apartment building and asked him if he wants to buy "ice." The officer allegedly told the cooperating source to wait as he would ask his girlfriend for some money.

David said Tudela later handed an undetermined amount of cash to the cooperating source, who then gave him a small plastic baggie containing a substance purported to be "ice."

David said the detectives later

met with the cooperating source and retrieved the electronic recording device and \$17 that Tudela gave to the cooperating source as payment.

At 8:13pm, the joint team served Tudela with an arrest warrant and searched his apartment unit.

According to court records, Tudela had a trafficking of a controlled substance case in Superior Court but it was disposed in December 2000. *Saipan Tribune* has yet to see the records to determine what happened to that case.

'Police officers are good'

In a news briefing yesterday afternoon, DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero assured the public that most police officers are good and are not engaged in this type of drug activities.

"It is unfortunate when somebody gets involved, especially with drug-related activities, because it tarnishes the reputation of the department as a whole," he said.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that he has already terminated about five police officers for drug-related activities.

He said more DPS personnel were also just released internally, based on sufficient information that they gathered to proceed with

administrative actions.

Deleon Guerrero said he's been quite aware for some time now that Tudela was engaged in drug-related activities. In fact, he said, it was a DPS detective who discovered Tudela's activities as part of an investigation into a criminal incident.

He said it was brought to his attention and one of the things suggested was to bring the matter to the AGID to investigate the matter further.

"We allowed the AGID to perform the investigation as opposed to DPS, given the fact that it does involve one of our employees," the commissioner said.

Deleon Guerrero said Tudela has been employed with DPS since 2008 and assigned with the Patrol Section.

He said at the time of the arrest, Tudela was off duty.

In a statement yesterday, Chief Prosecutor Rapadas said: "The people of the Commonwealth should rest assured that the majority of police officers serving them are good, hardworking public servants. Our office will continue to work with those dedicated officers with this and other future cases."

The public is reminded that the charges are allegations at this time and that all persons are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

RESTRICTED

From Page 1

total—depending on where and what type of military activity" is occurring.

A restricted area denotes the existence of "unusual, often invisible, hazards to aircraft" like "artillery firing, aerial gunnery or guided missiles," according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

In a recent interview, Star Marianas president Shaun Christian said these restricted areas would have a "major impact on transportation between the two islands."

He said he doesn't see how it would be "realistically feasible, given the realities with the distance between the two islands" and "the type of aircraft that are economically efficient" operating between Saipan and Tinian.

"Whatever they are looking as far as shutting airspace down is going to increase transporta-

tion times, which are going to drive up costs for customers and certainly impact the traveling public," he said.

Star Marianas had issues with cloud clearances and maintaining a certain altitude that kept them within gliding distance from the shore in the past. "The realities of the weather patterns out here, the height of the clouds above the surface makes it so even though we have a standard routing, we oftentimes have to deviate from that standard routing in order to stay compliant with the cloud clearances, and altitudes for gliding distance from shore," Christian said.

Right now, if there is weather moving in those travel corridors, he said, "I can take off, turn, and fly out toward the west side of the Tinian to get around the rain squall and then be able to turn back into Saipan."

"It just creates a whole new level of complexity in an already fairly complicated regulatory environment," he said.

BORDALLO

From Page 2

decrease again in the President's budget, when Congress rejected a similar proposal last year. This decrease does not address the many challenges that the affected jurisdictions face in providing social services to COFA migrants, nor does it reflect the

sense of priority that we get from Interior's leadership and that Congress has insisted on. COFA population trends have made the cost of providing services to COFA migrants unsustainable, and Compact-impact should explicitly remain a top priority for OIA. I will work with my colleagues to address this matter in the annual appropriations process."

Jeju Air planning more flights to NMI, says Guerrero

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

South Korean budget carrier Jeju Air is looking to increase the number of its flights to Saipan this year, according to

a lawmaker.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the expected "big jump" in tourist arrivals in the CNMI has prompted the South Korean carrier to increase the number

of its flights to the islands.

Jeju Air currently flies once a day from Saipan to Incheon, South Korea, and vice versa.

Quoting a status report from the Marianas Visitors Authority, Guerrero said the tourism

body is expecting a 12.6-percent increase in visitor arrivals in fiscal year 2015, which is a huge jump from the 2.3 percent increase for 2014.

Guerrero, however, did not say how many flights Jeju Air

will be adding to its Saipan route.

"Most of the increase in tourist arrivals will be related to the Korean market," Guerrero said, quoting MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

Tenorio and MVA officials recently met with lawmakers to disclose MVA's plans for the CNMI's tourism industry.

Quoting the MVA report,

Guerrero said the projection for "the Japanese market is still gloomy," due mainly to economic reasons and the devaluation of the yen.

Jeju Air made its maiden voyage to Saipan last Oct. 2, 2014. The aircraft, a Boeing 737-800 NG, has a capacity of 186 to 189 seats.

The inaugural flight marked the opening of Jeju Air's second route to the Marianas region, with Guam being the other.

Man hurt in beating, loses money

A 47-year-old man was arrested for allegedly beating up a man for no apparent reason in front of a poker arcade in western Garapan Friday afternoon.

The victim, Nahidul Islam, was bleeding from his nose, his left eyebrow had a cut, and his lips were swollen when a police officer responded to the scene. Islam also complained of pain in his hips and back from the fall and kicks, police said.

The suspect, Techuo Ichio Yleisar, 47, was arrested that same afternoon for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

His bail was set yesterday at \$2,000 cash. Preliminary

hearing will be on March 17 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that two police officers were dispatched to 777 Poker in western Garapan on Friday at 3:42pm in response to a report of a disturbance.

Udui said the officers met Islam, who was standing along Paseo de Marianas and pointing in the direction of where the suspect ran off.

One police officer spotted Yleisar sitting on the stairs to the second floor of a restaurant located behind Kings Club in western Garapan.

Yleisar told the officer that Islam borrowed money from him and that Islam refused to talk to him, denying that he owed him money.

The suspect said Islam was lying about not having any money because he saw him playing poker. Yleisar said he got upset so he punched Islam, then ran away after seeing police officers.

Islam told police, though, that it was his first time to meet Yleisar. He said the suspect punched and kicked him

about 19 times all over his body for no apparent reason. The alleged incident happened in front of U-Luck Poker and 777 Poker in western Garapan.

Islam said Yleisar kept cursing him and only stopped beating him when he noticed a lot of people looking on.

Islam added that he lost \$572 in cash during the beating and that his sunglasses worth \$275 were damaged.

Medics were called to the location to treat Islam's wounds. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Manglona issues a third show cause order against Woodruff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued yesterday a third show cause order that directs lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff to explain why he should not be held on contempt for failing to comply with the court's order.

Manglona ordered Woodruff to appear on March 11, 2015, at 1:30pm and explain why he should not be held in contempt and sanctioned for failing to comply with her August 2013 order.

The judge said Woodruff was required to submit a report on or before March 1, 2015, but no report has been submitted.

Accordingly, Manglona said, the court must again order Woodruff to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt.

On Aug. 8, 2013, based on Woodruff's disbarment in the CNMI courts and serious allegations of attorney misconduct, Manglona ordered him to "notify the court, in writing, of the progress of his disciplinary matter in the Commonwealth courts" within the last five business days of each month.

Two months later, the federal court asked Woodruff to explain why he has refused to comply with that order. Hours before the show-cause hearing, Woodruff filed the notices required by the August 2013 order.

At the hearing, Manglona excused Woodruff's failure to timely comply with the reporting requirements and discharged the show-cause order, but rejected his argument that the order was too onerous.

Manglona also cautioned Woodruff that he was required to file a written report with the court each month "even if there

has been no activity in the case whatsoever."

Woodruff complied with the August 2013 order through February 2014, but failed to file notices for March to September 2014. This prompted the court to issue a second order requiring Woodruff to explain himself.

Once again, Manglona said, hours before the show-cause hearing on Nov. 12, 2014, Woodruff filed a report for the October 2014 period.

Manglona said that Woodruff attempted to excuse his conduct with essentially the same arguments he raised at the first show-cause hearing.

This time, the judge held him in civil contempt and ordered him to pay a fine of \$500. Woodruff paid the fine and submitted the required reports.

Last Feb. 9, the court discharged the second order to show cause.

"Unfortunately, Woodruff continues to defy this court," Manglona said in her order yesterday.

On June 7, 2013, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Woodruff's disbarment for 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Woodruff is appealing the matter.

On Oct. 2, 2013, Wiseman found Woodruff in contempt for not complying with the mandate of Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and of the disbarment order.

Woodruff was sentenced to five days in prison but it was suspended on the condition that he comply with the mandates. In December 2013, Wiseman ordered him to spend only three days in jail instead of five because he did submit something that partially complied with the court orders.

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Chalan Lau Lau

Wireless Express Center - TSL Building

SHEFA eyes office transfer to Ladera Center this April

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is happy with the plan of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance to move this April to the Ladera Center, where the Saipan Mayor's Office is also located.

"It is a good decision because

you don't want last-minute planning and it would be a better collaboration between SHEFA's staff and board and our staff as well," Apatang said.

He requested SHEFA board members to start planning their move after attending one of the board's meetings in January.

On Feb. 26, SHEFA board members agreed to move to the

Ladera Center before the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. releases the property they currently occupy to a possible investor.

In a separate interview, SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa said that they are already in the planning stages of moving.

"We are looking at starting the process around April when it is not as busy here at SHEFA.

This has been our office since 2004 and we were fortunate enough to be rent-free all these years with only an annual insurance fee of \$300 to NMHC.

SHEFA will now have to meet with the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to request for additional funding. SHEFA is usually appropriated some \$3 million, of which only

about a \$100,000 is used for operational and administrative costs.

Rasa said they were given six months at the most to complete their move.

"We are set [at the] unit to the right of the Saipan Mayor's Office. We are also hopeful SNILD will provide us additional funding now that we will have to pay for an office space," she said.

She noted that they will possibly meet with SNILD this week.

Upon SHEFA's relocation, Apatang said he will help the scholarship office in every way possible.

"But for now we are focusing first on the community projects that are ongoing and if SHEFA requests assistance, then we will do so," he said.

NMTI, Fiesta Resort ink training agreement

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute continues to expand its trades programs as it carries out its mission to provide technical, trades, and other related occupational programs designed to produce educated and skilled workers, and thereby address the labor and economic development needs of the Commonwealth.

A recent expansion to NMTI's training program was initiated on March 4, 2015, when Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and NMTI entered into a memorandum of agreement to establish two mutually beneficial skills development and apprenticeship programs: one in hotel and restaurant operations and the other in culinary arts.

Signatories to the MOA were Abner Acosta, general manager of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, NMTI board chair John Oliver Gonzales, vice chair Joseph

Torres, and NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres.

Both the hotel and restaurant operations program and the culinary arts program prepare students for entry into postsecondary education and/or immediate employment in the hospitality industry.

Sous Chef Bernard Manansala of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will instruct students who register for the culinary arts classes. This program will help students acquire marketable skills as they examine the industry and its career opportunities. This program will cover sanitation and food safety, food preparation and service, and interpersonal skills. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's kitchen will be used as the laboratory for the students, who will be under the guidance of Manansala. **(Fiesta Resort)**



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Abner Acosta, third from left, shakes hands with Northern Marianas Training Institute CEO Agnes McPhetres after signing the memorandum of agreement. Others in photo are NMTI board members and Fiesta Resort officials.

Chinese community raises \$1K for Maturana building renovation

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

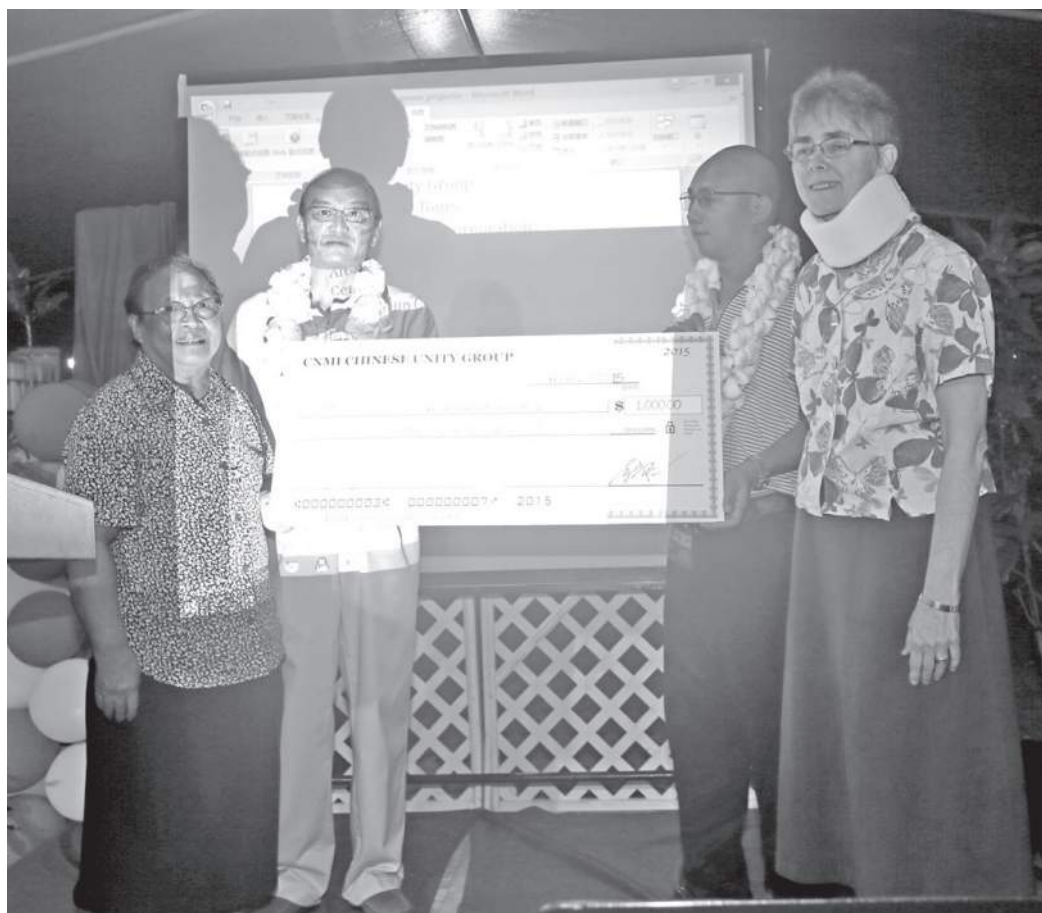
The CNMI Chinese Community's Goodwill Fundraising event successfully raised \$1,000 last Saturday at the Kanoa Resort and the money will be donated to the Maturana Foundation for its building renovation.

The fundraising was the perfect opportunity for individuals and businesses to connect with each other in raising funds for a common purpose while giving back to the CNMI Chinese community as well as the local community.

Saipan Chinese News publisher Betty Bai said that several overseas Chinese-owned companies, along with others within the community, initiated the fundraising activity to promote unity within the local Chinese community and cultivate a spirit of solidarity in the CNMI.

The funds raised will serve the CNMI Chinese community's vital immigration interests as well as to launch goodwill programs to help improve relationships with the local community.

Bai said that about 15 of the CNMI's Chinese business owners contributed a total of \$1,000 for Maturana and presented the



Maturana Foundation representatives Sister Martha, front row left, and Sister Mary, front row right, receive \$1,000 in cash donation from the CNMI Chinese Community Goodwill Fundraising event on Saturday at the Kanoa Resort.

amount to Sister Martha and Sister Mary of Maturana.

The 15 include An Hao Corp., Alter City Group, Century Tours, Huangshun Corp., I Love Saipan, Kevin Store, Lucky De,

Pretty Tour, Pure Spa, QQ Car Rental, Sterling Corp., Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Twins Market, U.S. Fanter General Contractor Construction Corp., and XO Supermarket.

Bai said the rest of the money raised will be put into a trust fund.

"We did the fundraiser by selling \$25 a ticket per person that made it to \$1,000," she said.

Speech and debate workshop offered

Angie Wheat will be conducting workshops to be offered to all fifth through 12th graders in the CNMI, to be held at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. Coaches, teachers, and parents of fifth through 12th graders are also invited to attend and to learn.

The workshops will be held on April 2, Thursday, from 10:30am to 5pm, and on April 4, Saturday, from 9:15am to 3:30pm.

This is a two-day workshop covering all the topic areas that we offer here in the CNMI and most of what is offered at the national level.

These workshops will teach, guide, and encourage students on how to find pieces, how to construct and/or interpret pieces, and how to deliver pieces, whether the pieces are in English, Chamorro, or Carolinian, for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association and National Speech and Debate Association competitions that are held here and at the national level.

Students and coaches will

be working inside and outside the library during these workshops, sometimes by themselves and sometimes in pairs. The following events will be addressed during these workshops: Prose reading, Poetry reading, Storytelling, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, Declamation, Expository Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking, and Debate.

There will be planned breaks and a lunch period, on your own. Students may bring their own lunch (to be eaten outside) or may go across the street to get something at one of the stores nearby.

The fee per day will be \$40 for NJSDA and NSDA members and \$50 for non-members and teachers, coaches or parents. No checks will be accepted.

Private times can be arranged with Wheat for later dates. **(PR)**

IT&E employees take part in Beach Road cleanup



IT&E employees and their families gathered early Saturday morning for their quarterly trash pickup, which is part of their efforts to give back to the community.

Starting at 6am, IT&E employees met up at the Quartermaster Tank on Beach Road, handing each other gloves, trash bags, rakes, a blower machine, and other tools used to pick up trash and beautify the sidewalks.

Even the employees' children appeared excited as they prepared to assist with the cleanup. Most employees who bring their children to the event view it as quality time they are able to spend together while doing something beneficial for the community.

The grounds covered stretched from Oleai Beach Bar & Grill to the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion.

After the cleanup, the employees met back at their starting point for light refreshments and rehydration.

Rose A. Soledad, IT&E general manager, continues to emphasize the importance of giving back to the community and the people who are instrumental in the success of IT&E. Her persistence to continue company-sponsored events like this is essential to maintaining camaraderie with the community.

This has been an IT&E tradition since 2011. *(IT&E)*

IT&E employees and their families gather early Saturday morning at the Quartermaster tank on Beach Road after participating in their quarterly trash pickup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Deadline to order graduation accessories

This is to inform all parents of seniors (12th grade) at Marianas High School that the last day to place an order for graduation accessories and partial payment is March 23, 2015. Please be advised that orders will not be accepted after the deadline. Graduation accessories are purchased off island. Please call 237-3206/3205 for more information. *(MHS)*

Chamber invites public to Young Professionals Committee meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting the public to join its Young Professionals Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 10, at 5pm at the 360 Restaurant. The committee is open to the general public and to Chamber members who are ages 18-35. This new committee will provide opportunities for networking, education and fun for young professionals in the business community. Call the Chamber office at 234-7150 or email executive@saipanchamber.com with any questions. *(SCC)*

CCA board meeting on March 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer As-

sociation at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com.

The Survivor's and Caregiver's Support Group Meeting will be held on March 19, 2015, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. *(PR)*

Grotto dive site closed temporarily

Effective March 8, 2015, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section has closed the Grotto dive site for the time being due to rough waters and strong current. It is advised that all visitors to the Grotto obey the signage posted and avoid going down into the site. The Department of Public Safety will make another announcement when the current lessens and the site is safe again. *(DPS)*

Air Force, Navy training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ March 10-11, from 10:30am to 12:30pm, 2:30-4:30pm and 6:30-8:30pm.

■ March 12-13, from 10am to 4:30pm and 6:30-11:55pm.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 March 10-11 from noon to 8pm.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. *(PR)*

ESFDB students serenade veterans for their service

Students at the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja serenaded and gave a salute to Rota veterans who came to the island to visit family members and friends, and for rest and relaxation.

The event honoring the Rota veterans was held at the Rota Mayor's Office on March 3 and 6.

Under the direction of ESFDB's music teacher Mary Rose S. Lucero, the 4th to 8th grade students sang Christian gospel tunes to the sons and daughters of Rota veterans Cpl. Luis S. Manglona, Sgt. Janice T. Apatang, and Apatang's spouse, retired SFC Darrel L. Bouie.

"The opportunity for the

students to sing for the veterans is a fabulous activity for our students that focus on freedom and peace for our nation," said Lucero. "They did a wonderful job."

"We thought it would be nice for veterans to hear songs that would help them be happy and be glad that with prayers and God's guidance, they will be safe from the dangers war," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "We should be thankful and grateful for their sacrifices in keeping our nation safe."

"The activity also relates to social studies lessons that target citizenship and community ser-

vices," added Atalig.

"It was a nice ceremony for our veterans. I was proud to be a part of it," said Student Council president Tyra Reese A. Calvo.

"The veterans served and protected our country," said Student Council vice president Marjorie Banaag. "It makes me happy that we got to do something for them."

"It's really great that our school will go out of their way to honor our Luta veterans. The song expression of prayer, love, and gratitude toward our veterans by the students is a beautiful tribute [that] creates lasting memories for our Luta veterans," said school board

president Edward C. Maratita Jr. "These students can appreciate the value of what our servicemen and women mean to the Luta community and to the nation. At the end, the goal is to encourage greater community interest in our school."

The administration, students, faculty and staff, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and staff, Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Rota Division of Veterans Affairs representative Ryan Taisacan. Thank you, *dangkulo na si yu 'us ma'ase*, and *maraming salamat po!* *(ESFDB)*



Rota leaders and an Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja student read the wording of the certificate to be presented to (retired) Sgt. First Class Darrel L. Bouie and Sgt. Janice T. Apatang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Empty Vessel congratulates Vicky Benavente

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation recognizes and congratulates Vicky Benavente for being chosen as the Business Woman of the Year.

In 2011 Benevente welcomed the idea of creating the Saipan's Next Top Chef event. The competition involves interested chefs on the island to compete and showcase their cooking styles.

The competition is a signature event for EVM to raise funds to support its community work here and abroad. In the past, EVM has been able to provide school supplies to various public schools on Saipan and help provide new toilets for the *man'amko* in Garapan. EVM was able to support ongoing sponsorship programs for children in the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Kenya. EVM appreciates the support we receive during the competition from contestants, sponsors, and community.

Benavente has been also participating in women empowerment meetings to share her success and encourage young women to pursue opportunities available for themselves to better their lives. Despite her busy schedule as executive assistant for Pacific Islands Club, she



Oleai Elementary school students with Saipan's Next Top Chef and Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club.

is still able to give her time to community work and has been able to help out at EVM and other community projects.

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation also honors other

great women volunteers this month for their major contribution and support: Esther Muna, CEO of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.; Raquel C. Bagnol, *Marianas Variety*; Dr.

Jean Olivia Grant of CHC; Dr. Esther Kanajorn of CHC; Dr. Sherleen Osman of CHC; Dr. Beth Kohnen; Nola Hix of Xerox; Rhea Backe, 2013 winner of Saipan's Next Top Chef; Rep. Felicidad T. Ogomoro; Reina Camacho; Jovita M. Taimanao; Janet U. Maratita; Antonia M. Tudela; Rose Nelly Taman; Marcia Ayuyu of McDonald's Saipan and Business Woman of the Year for 2013; Shirley Sablan of Pacifica Insurance, Business Woman of the Year for 2014; Cheryl Cabreram MHS principal; Dr. Maria Hy of CHC; Pam Carhill Pacific Wellness; and Kaitlyn Mocanu.

Without their help and contribution, it would be hard for EVM to run its daily activities. EVM depend on generous supporters, donors and businesses for our charitable activities. We appreciate any help extended to us. The time and resources from these great women have added value to EVM. It is possible to be part of community projects if one is willing and committed to the cause. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Nola Hix acts as emcee at the Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Beth Kohnen offers free consultation at the Garapan Street Market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation receives a donation from Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Rhea Backe is named the winner of the 2013 Saipan Next Top Chef competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Jeanolivia Grant educates women about women's health issues.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SVES thanks its donors and community partners



PHOTOS BY DENNIS B. CHAN

Top finishers in a recent Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, fair were awarded last Friday.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Vicente Elementary School thanked its donors and community partners with an appreciation ceremony last Friday morning for their help in support of school projects.

Students held an assembly in the grass field near the school stage, loudly thanking these donors. The school presented the donors with plaques

of appreciation.

Parent Teacher Association president Wayne Pangelinan said these donors helped put in money for the school's new walkway, pathway lights, a gate, and flagpole, among others.

They have also helped with repairing a dysfunctional bathroom, which is ongoing, he said.

Mobil Chalan Kiya and Mobil Kagman had donated \$500, he said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-



Islands Training Solutions donated funds for San Vicente Elementary School projects.

Saipan) donated \$500 as well.

The Pacific Island Club Saipan, Island Training Solutions, Island Rent-a-Car, IT&E, and Moylan's Insurance, among several others, contributed \$200.

An Islands Training Solutions representative at the ceremony said their donations are "to support the school." "If somebody asks for a donation, then Mr. Arenovski [Island Training Solutions sole proprietor] is very generous of that, because he supports the island and everything going on in the island," she said.

"We feel the students are im-



Mobil Gas Station accepts their plaque of appreciation from SVES Parent Teacher Association president Wayne Pangelinan.



Island Rent-A-Car is acknowledged for their support.



Pacific Islands Club executive assistant Vicky Benavente is presented with her plaque of appreciation.

portant. We feel that learning is also important, and we give to the school to help support it in its goal in whatever the school would need the money for. It's always a pleasure. It melts the heart, when we do things like this," said a Mobil representative.

The donors were part of PTA's successful Canary Walkathon recently.

Pangelinan said they are looking to hold another event, this time for parents and adults only. He said this comedy night and dinner is planned for June.

He said PTA has been working very hard to get these school projects done.



IT&E donated to SVES school projects.



SVES and PTA officials pose for a photo with their community partners.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A double standard on David Petraeus

As a result of the Obama administration's unprecedented war on national-security leaks, some obscure government officials and contractors who divulged classified information to reporters have been sentenced to prison. But David H. Petraeus, the retired general and former director of the CIA, won't serve a day behind bars if the government has its way.

Petraeus has agreed to plead guilty to a simple misdemeanor for giving classified information to Paula Broadwell, his biographer and mistress, in 2011. But the Justice Department has asked a judge to sentence him to probation rather than prison. Not only that. It seems Petraeus can look forward to returning in short order to the role of Washington wise man.

Other targets of leak investigations have been less fortunate. Stephen Jin-Woo Kim, a former State Department intelligence advisor, was sentenced to 13 months in prison after pleading guilty to disclosing a report about North Korea to a Fox News reporter. John Kiriakou, a 14-year CIA veteran, was sentenced to 30 months after pleading guilty to disclosing to a reporter the identity of an undercover operative who subjected suspected terrorists to "enhanced interrogation" techniques, including waterboarding.

The whiff of a double standard is overwhelming. If anything, a leader at Petraeus' level should be held to a higher standard than lower-level officials or contractors.

Petraeus' defenders will note that none of the classified information in several "black books" provided to Broadwell showed up in the biography she wrote. But Petraeus couldn't have been sure of that when he shared the notebooks, which, he told Broadwell, were "highly classified" and contained "code word stuff."

And there is another factor that weighs against this lenient disposition: According to a statement of facts submitted to the court and stipulated to by Petraeus, he falsely told FBI agents—during an interview in his CIA office!—that he hadn't provided classified information to Broadwell. He told that untruth despite having acknowledged in writing on a previous occasion that "I understand that providing false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation is a violation of law."

Petraeus is held in bipartisan esteem in Washington, and some notable figures seemed eager to treat his admission of guilt as an unfortunate footnote to a brilliant career. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he considered the matter closed and expressed the hope that "Gen. Petraeus will continue to provide his outstanding service and leadership to our nation."

Other targets of the administration's war on leaks, including some who might reasonably be considered whistle-blowers for bringing to light government abuses, aren't likely to be given a similar fresh start, even after regaining their freedom. That may be the way of the world, but it's not justice.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times

WHAT THE FERGUSON
POLICE WEAR...

JULIA SCHRAM

WHAT THE BLACK
RESIDENTS WEAR...

How the GOP endangered its own security

The Republican Party may well have put its destiny on display for all to see this past week.

For months, its leaders had promised us their new Republican-controlled Congress would hit the ground running to show America the GOP can not only govern, but actually make Washington work.

Then they took their first bold step—right onto an upturned rake. Bonk!

As stars, suns and moons circled overhead, the GOP's leaders seemed befuddled about what just happened—and clueless about how to fix it. But it seemed clear to everyone who watched it play out, as if in slow motion, before our disbelieving eyes.

It started with a GOP leadership misstep back in December. And it ended up as a bit of political theater in two acts, performed separately but simultaneously. One starred the Republicans in Congress; the other starred the activist conservative base that sees itself as the Grand Old Party of tomorrow, demonstrating its ascendant influence at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

First, let's remember December: Republican congressional leaders were understandably enraged after President Barack Obama took executive actions to achieve immigration reforms Congress never even attempted. But the GOP leaders responded in a most irresponsible way: pandering to the party's right wingers by playing a political game of chicken with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding.

Republicans plucked DHS out of the funding for other federal programs and insisted it could only be funded by including a provision to scrap Obama's immigration reforms. Obama and Democrats of course rejected that.

In the House, some 50 Republicans aligned with the tea party faction rejected any compromises—and House Speaker John Boehner wound up unable to control his own majority party. For two months, the Republican-controlled Congress came right up to a homeland security shutdown deadline, then pushed a three week reprieve, and then pushed one week more.

Time out: Imagine what conservatives would have been saying if Democrats threatened to shut down homeland security funding at a time when Islamic terrorists threatened to attack shopping malls and other American targets. Conservatives would've blasted Democrats as unpatriotic—and worse! And they'd be right.

Many wise senior Republicans publicly lambasted the tea party conservatives and privately said worse about GOP leaders' inability to lead, and their party's failure to govern. One of the most influential blasts came from a senior House Republican who is not known for basking in television spotlights—the new House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif. Nunes blasted fellow conservatives who were threatening to vote no, or not vote at all on proposals to end the standoff.

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



"We face more global and domestic threats today than ever before, and they're growing worse by the day," Nunes said in a statement last Saturday. "This is not a time in history in which members of Congress have the luxury of not voting while hiding behind empty posturing and populist rhetoric."

He added: "I also applaud the roughly 200 GOP Members who are consistently in the arena—on the House floor—trying to advance the conservative agenda. I prefer to be in the arena voting than trying to placate a small group of phony conservative members who have no credible policy proposals and no political strategy to stop Obama's lawlessness."

Two days later the House Republicans quietly ended their homeland security scare, funding the department until the end of the fiscal year.

Meanwhile, that same day, perhaps a better barometer of the future of the GOP was on display nine miles south of the Capitol dome, at CPAC, attended by thousands of primarily young conservatives.

While the media's big eye was focused on the weeklong parade of presidential hopefuls, the real future of the GOP may have been glimpsed at an afternoon panel session under CPAC's red-and-white "Conservative Action Starts Here" banner. The audience of young conservatives was being urged to go home and start running for the smallest local offices, as a way of someday rising to control the GOP.

Jenny Beth Martin, founder of the Tea Party Patriots, was applauded and cheered after she derided Obama's immigration executive actions (where reforms weren't attempted) and especially when she said of Obamacare, "We still have the opportunity to repeal that!" (The House has voted 56 times to repeal Obamacare.)

But another panelist, Ned Ryun, founder of the American Majority, warned that Republicans have too often just been "the party of 'No' ... we have to have solutions!" His sane warning was silently received.

In that aural snapshot we can see the great divide Republicans must bridge if their Grand Old Party is ever going to survive, let alone return to its old days of glory, grandeur and, someday perhaps, governance.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An Obama legacy of less freedom and more danger?

As the last two years of his tenure move toward their conclusion, President Barack Obama's increasingly probable legacy—on top of the much-discussed debt he will leave to punish future generations—could be a nuclear-armed Iran and a striking diminution of rule of law and American freedoms.

Recently, the great shudder among liberals has been the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to beg America not to sacrifice his country in its rush to an agreement that would eventually allow Iran to build a bomb.

As reported, it would be a 10-year deal permitting Iran to keep in place nuclear facilities that would enable moves toward weapons manufacture down the road and doing nothing to stop it at the agreement's termination. There will in the meantime be inspectors, according to a White House that gave Iran \$11 billion in unfrozen funds to embrace this idea. Iranians will surely become nice guys by the end of the agreement and the only alternative was to go to war, we are also told.

Excuse me, but another alternative could be the kinds of sanctions that got Iran to the negotiating table in the first place, keen observers say. They also noted the business about inspectors is a joke: Iran has never disclosed sufficient details of its nuclear infrastructure to give the inspectors any idea where to go. Keep in mind, too, that this is the same fanatical regime sponsoring terrorists and that just lately showered rockets on a mock U.S. aircraft carrier in its war games.

LBJ was a hero of Selma, too

President Barack Obama commemorated some real heroes last weekend in Selma, Ala.—the African-American citizens and their white supporters who risked life and limb a half-century ago to achieve their constitutional right to vote.

And as Georgia Rep. John Lewis and other survivors of those horrific days have stressed, this fight is not over, given increasing political polarization on racial lines and the continuing effort by Republican governors and legislators to make voting more difficult.

It will not diminish the role of Selma's heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., if we also praise President Lyndon Johnson's part in encouraging and using the conditions dramatized by Bloody Sunday to gain political support for the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Rightfully condemned for enmeshing the United States in the unwinnable Vietnam War and criticized by conservative critics over the burgeoning costs of some Great Society programs, Johnson often fails to get full credit for the extent to which his efforts transformed the United States for the better.

The crowning example is civil rights. He not only shepherded three major rights acts to enactment during his presidency but his appointments also significantly expanded the government's racial diversity.

He did so despite his prescience that it would cripple the Southern Democratic Party. Anyone doubting the racial component of its decline need only look at how Obama's rise accelerated the region's Republicanization.

Johnson's efforts form a political backdrop for the dramatic

The great shudder should be about an out-negotiated U.S.-led team seeming to think patty-cake will subvert evil in a regime exhibiting it daily. Likelier consequences are the kind of Middle East instability that could ultimately lead to war about as contained as Iran's ambitions and to Netanyahu's legitimate dread.

To move to the next topic, let's go back to 2008 when a campaigning Obama said one of the worst things the country faced was George W. Bush's bypassing of Congress to give the executive more power. In 2011, after a midterm election in which the public delivered a Congress more likely to slow Obama down, he embraced a slogan that said, "We can't wait," meaning there would be less waiting for the legislative branch to have its constitutional say.

An early display of that was the virtual nullification of the No Child Left Behind education law through state waivers, followed by much else that swished past Congress as if it were a scary looking hiker on a highway. The Supreme Court was not always pleased, as when it disallowed White House appointments made without required congressional approval.

One particularly bad move came after the 2014 midterm election when the voters again said let's cut out the overreaching and Obama got in their faces and that of Congress with his legalizing of more than 4 million illegal immigrants that he himself had said on 22 prior occasions would be unconstitutional.

Oh, well, there was precedent as a matter of prosecutorial discretion, said liberals missing a point that a federal judge has now un-

derlined: In this act, Obama also flatly ignored statutes prohibiting him from granting work permits and welfare rights on his own. Let a president do that, and there's nothing much he can't do.

On top of that, of course, there has been this new Federal Communications Commission plan to make the Internet less liberated along with hordes of intervening regulations that stomp out entrepreneurial initiative, cost billions and treat adults like children. It's no wonder then that an international think tank survey shows Americans' sense of personal freedom has been declining under this president or that an examination of our economic freedom shows us 12th on a list of nations, down from sixth freest when Obama first took office.

Is all of this what Obama meant when he once promised hope and change?

events movingly portrayed in the movie "Selma," though he neither is—nor should be—its principal figure. Johnson aides rightly criticize the accuracy of suggestions that he gave FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover the go-ahead to send a tape detailing King's extramarital sexual activities to his wife, Coretta. But Johnson certainly knew of—and supported—the improper wiretapping.

The film portrays King and Johnson at odds on timing of a voting rights bill. That is technically correct, because Johnson was unsure the political climate was favorable and wanted to start with Medicare, aid-to-education and antipoverty measures, virtual legislative "slam dunks" given his massive Democratic congressional majorities.

But it is misleading to portray him as obstructionist. Johnson directed his Justice Department to draft voting rights legislation well before the Selma march and on Jan. 15 had a friendly telephone discussion with King on the political benefits of his planned protests.

The transcript shows Johnson advising King to "find the worst condition that you run into in Alabama, Mississippi, or Louisiana, or South Carolina where ... (people are) being denied the right to cast a vote, and if you just take that one illustration and get it on radio, and get it on television ... And that will help us on what we're going to shove through in the end."

"Yes," replied King, who had already targeted Selma. "You're exactly right about that."

Precisely that transpired on March 7, 1965, thanks to the self-defeating obstructionism and brutality of local and state officials. It's the event Obama and Lewis will mark this weekend, joined by former President George W. Bush and Democrats and Republicans

capacity and it will take tons to satisfy the tremendous appetite for marijuana once it is on the menu. The farmers on Rota will also become rich and even millionaires if this industry continues to grow at the present rate. If you are tired of Rota's deteriorating conditions then attend the public hearing and supporting legalization.

The only question to be answered is will the people come out and support legalization or will they just "let it be" because we know that doing nothing to promote change and embracing the past will get us nowhere quick, fast, and in a hurry! People, especially our youth, are leaving because the CNMI is so far behind the times when we should be pursuing and embracing modern times. Rota can start this change or let opportunity pass them by like the ships and airplanes already do every day between Guam and Saipan. Rota can be the gateway to the CNMI but only if the people want to make it happen. This is your chance, Rota!

We can all join together to promote change and improvements through legalization or we can all continue to live in the past and squander the prosperity of legalization that is the core of the American dream. Freedom and prosperity are pillars of America and the American dream. The freedom to use a natural God-given herb, which is the

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from Congress.

Still, it remains to be seen if the latter's participation will prompt hesitant GOP congressional leaders to join the bipartisan effort needed to restore a crucial part of the 1965 act the Supreme Court deemed no longer necessary, despite recent efforts to restrict voting in Alabama, Texas and elsewhere.

This weekend might also show whether or not Obama has overcome his reluctance to give Johnson his due for the Voting Rights Act and the giant strides toward racial equality that made possible his own emergence

The bloody scene at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge has come to symbolize America's civil rights struggle. But many of us also remember Johnson's personal and political coda the following week, when he climaxed his moving speech to Congress urging the now fast-tracked legislation with the words of the movement's iconic anthem, vowing, "And we shall overcome."

And they did.

least addictive of all the vices including cigarettes and the ability to make hundreds of millions should be enough prosperity to make the people of Rota come out in large numbers to support legalization. The great part about the people making a show of support for legalization is that you don't have to say a word or even display a sign because here in the CNMI, just being there in large numbers will be enough for our leaders to get the message. They will know why you are there. But a failure to turn out in large numbers to support legalization will surely send the message that you are satisfied with the suffering and deterioration of your economy and quality of life on Rota. The legalization ball is pitched to you on Rota first, so many of us on Saipan and Tinian are depending upon you to start this economic reform to legalize pot by hitting it out of the park with a full show of support for full legalization (medical, medicinal, and recreational).

P.S.: I am asking any member of the Legislature, any organization or group that is interested in sponsoring a debate on legalization to please contact me; I'm listed in the phone book. A debate would also be a good fundraising activity as I'm sure people will even pay to see a truly long overdue debate on legalization in the CNMI. I know it will be very helpful for our leaders and the people to be educated as much as possible on this critical issue as there is just too much money and prosperity at stake.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rota has first say on legalization

The people of Rota will be the first to make official public comments on the legalization of marijuana in the CNMI. I was recently informed that the public hearings on the Senate bill are tentatively scheduled to begin on Rota during the week of March 16. I find it poetic that the segment of CNMI society who is suffering the most and stand the most to gain from legalization will be the first to speak out on the issue of legalization. Indeed, Rota may set the tone for all the public hearings, which is why it is imperative for the people to turn out in large numbers. Given the many certified polls and surveys that prove the majority of Americans in the mainland now support legalization, I would like to believe the overwhelming majority on Rota will also support legalization for a number of reasons.

Rota is in the unique position to become the epicenter for starting change, growth, and prosperity that are trademarks of the new marijuana industry. I'm sure the citizens of Rota who are informed about marijuana and tired of seeing their island turn into a ghost town will surely come out to support legalization for all uses, not just medical. There is also the fact that if the moratorium approach to full legalization as I proposed is accepted and used, Rota will be one of the primary cultivation sites of marijuana as Saipan has a very limited

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲85° ▼75°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼75°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

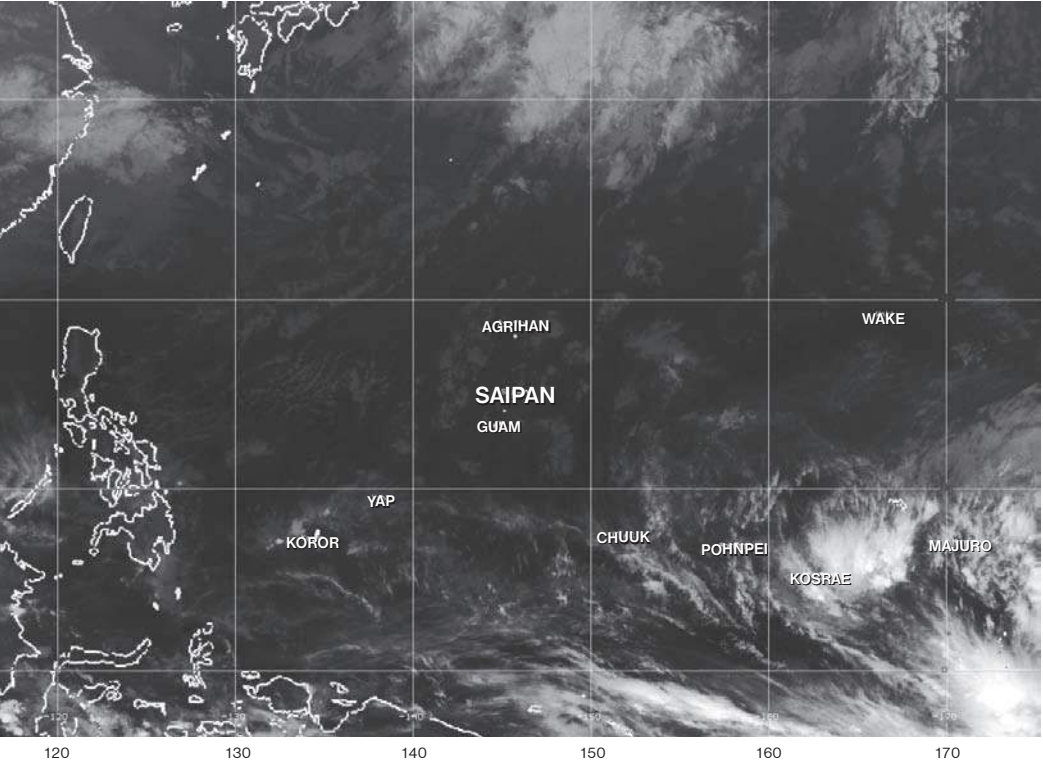
▲87° ▼75°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches far eastward from 2N130E to a weak circulation near Majuro at 5N171E. Scattered showers north of the trough near Koror are within 75 miles of a line from 6N130E to 6N135E to 4N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae state and the Marshall Islands along with Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls are southeast of a line from 6N161E to 12N172E to 17N180. Low-level convergence between Guam and Chuuk is producing scattered showers between 8N and 13N from 147E to 152E convergence associated with low pressure east of Japan is causing cloudiness and patchy rain northwest of a line from 23N130E to 25N136E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲51	▼25
Hong Kong	Windy	▲66	▼58
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼61
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼54
Manila	Sunny	▲88	▼71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼52
Miami	Showers	▲82	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼35
Osaka	Showers	▲41	▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Pusan	Windy	▲43	▼26
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼43
Salem	Sunny	▲69	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲36	▼23
Tokyo	Showers	▲54	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼42

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:29 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	10:00 PM	9:10A M
Wednesday	10:51 PM	9:53 AM
Thursday	11:43 PM	10:39 AM
Friday		11:28 AM
Saturday	12:37 AM	12:21 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM			UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN			UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
						UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		
						UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM		
						UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		

Business

Ukraine industry seeks ties with West, but buckles in crisis

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Volodymyr Kuzovkin's office is less than 50 miles from the European Union, but for him and his factory, the EU is a world away.

Despite Ukraine's desperation to integrate with Europe, a desire so strong it sparked the protests that ousted pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich last year, much of

Ukrainian business remains wedded to Soviet-era practices even as it is buffeted by a very modern economic crisis.

Ukraine is hoping to improve links between its heavy industry and European markets to help the economy recover. But for companies like Kuzovkin's Lviv State Jewelry Factory in western Ukraine, the challenges are huge.



AP
In this photo taken in Feb. 17, 2015, a employer works in jewelry factory in Lviv, Western Ukraine.

awarded to it by the Soviet government, but now it too is struggling to adapt.

The company focuses on exports to the U.S. and Europe and imports little, which would typically allow it to prosper from the weak Ukrainian currency, but acting Chief Executive Roman Biloskorskiy says he had been forced to cut production.

"We only have sales contracts in foreign currency now," he said. He noted that with the plunging value of the hryvnia, "we should be doing more export sales, but the items that we buy have also risen in price, so it has ended up more or less balancing out."

The factory went through tough times last year under previous management, with workers going unpaid, Biloskorskiy said, but wage arrears have now been cleared and salaries will rise soon as ordinary Ukrainians face a rising cost of living.

Vladimir Bratusin, sales director of KRMZ, a Soviet-era metalworking plant on the outskirts of Kiev, says the unavailability of dollars raised the specter of a return to bartering, last widely seen in Ukraine during the post-Soviet economic turbulence of the 1990s.

More collaborating and less criticizing could fix relationships with co-workers

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I am having a serious problem with some lazy co-workers. As the sales manager for a conference center, I book events for customers, then send the requirements to our two event planners. Their job is to handle all the details, including room set up, catering and audiovisual needs.

The planners are quite capable of doing the work, but they just don't seem to care. On the day of an event, they will often show up late, bring the wrong equipment or arrange the room incorrectly. Although I apologize profusely to the customers, many of them never return.

As the public representative of this facility, I'm afraid these mishaps are damaging my professional reputation. Whenever I ask my boss to make these guys do their jobs correctly, she accuses me of questioning her ability to run the department. What should I do about this?

A: Losing business through the ineptitude of others is maddening, so I understand your frustration. At this point, however, additional complaining isn't likely to help, so you must look for other ways to influence the situation.

Start by assessing your own relationship with the planners. If they see you as an adversary, their indifference could be a passive-aggressive response to criticism. In that case, a different approach might help to get everyone on the same team.

For example: "Unfortunately, we have recently experienced a decline in repeat business. This could jeopardize our job security, so I hope we can put aside past differ-

ences and develop a plan to turn things around. Since we each play an important part in creating successful events, we will be much more effective if we work as a team."

If the planners seem receptive, you can begin discussing the reasons why customers don't come back. Just be sure to stay focused on solutions, avoid belaboring past mistakes and remain open to feedback about your own actions.

On the other hand, if collaboration seems unlikely, try going back to your boss. Instead of criticizing your colleagues, provide a written summary of the issues encountered by dissatisfied customers. Suggest using a staff meeting to discuss this list and create an improvement plan.

But if all else fails and the screw-ups continue, encourage disgruntled customers to contact your boss directly. Explain that you feel sure she would like a chance to address their concerns, then give them her email address. Perhaps their comments will motivate your manager to act like one and fix this problem.

Q: If someone asks you to assist with a task that is outside the parameters of your job description, what should you do?

A: That totally depends on who asks, why they are asking and what your manager expects. Some people spend so much time helping others that they get in trouble for neglecting their own duties. Others refuse to pitch in and assist co-workers who legitimately need their assistance. But one thing is certain: if the request comes from anyone in your management chain, the only acceptable response is "Happy to help!"

Trade with EU countries is not picking up. Business with oil-rich ex-Soviet states in Central Asia has tapered off because of uncertainty over the war in eastern Ukraine. And the local economy is in shambles—skilled workers are going to the front, inflation is soaring and loans are so hard to come by that some companies are considering bartering goods.

"People are spending on subsistence," says Kuzovkin, a grizzled 74-year-old former miner who was put in charge of the Lviv factory in 1985 by the Soviet government.

The national currency, the

hryvnia, has lost almost three quarters of its value against the dollar in 12 months. The effects of that are particularly acute for manufacturers like the Lviv jewelry plant, which must buy gold and silver at ever-higher prices.

The factory has slashed production by half in the last year because it cannot afford the precious metals, Kuzovkin said. The price at which the factory buys gold has tripled in 12 months, he adds, with similar rises for silver and diamonds.

In a room used for producing thin silver chain, only one machine of six is operating. Kuzovkin said the factory would

need "dozens more people" to work at full capacity. He had plans to expand production before violence flared in the east, but those have been shelved due to the war.

With much of Ukraine's heavy industry based in the east of the country now either under rebel control, the historically poorer west and center of the country must now shoulder more of the burden of helping Ukraine out of economic crisis.

The machine-building plant called Bolshevik, located in the west of the capital Kiev, has been a major employer since Tsarist times and its website proudly displays honors

Obama to announce effort to boost high-tech training, hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing stubbornly stagnant wages, President Barack Obama has obtained commitments from more than 300 employers as well as local governments in 20 regions of the country to train and hire high technology workers in an effort to drive up higher-income employment.

People familiar with the program inside and outside the White House said Obama is to announce the program, called TechHire, during a speech Monday to the National League of Cities.

The initiative is designed

to prepare U.S. workers for a growing number of technology jobs. According to the White House, of the 5 million jobs available today, more than half a million of them are in fields such as software development, network administration, and cybersecurity.

Obama's attention to technology comes as the unemployment rate is dropping, but wages still remain flat.

According to the White House, the average salary for workers with high-tech skills is 50 percent higher than the aver-

age private-sector American job.

The administration's plan is for universities and community colleges to provide training, but to also rely on high-tech educational academies, some of which have entered into arrangements with cities to train workers in a matter of months and then help place them in jobs.

The training academies undergo independent studies to confirm the rate of job placements.

Under the plan, the federal government would provide as-of-yet unspecified federal assistance to help local gov-

ernments leverage training for high-tech workers.

The unemployment rate in February dropped to 5.5 percent but average hourly earnings rose just 3 cents to \$24.78 from January. Raising wages has become one of the biggest challenges of the current economic recovery.

"Helping more Americans train and connect to these jobs is a key element of the President's middle-class economics agenda," White House Deputy Press Secretary Jennifer Friedman said.

Some states fight to keep their wood fires burning

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Smoke wafting from wood fires has long provided a familiar winter smell in many parts of the country—and, in some cases, a foggy haze that has filled people's lungs with fine particles that can cause coughing and wheezing.

Citing health concerns, the Environmental Protection Agency now is pressing ahead with regulations to significantly limit the pollution from newly manufactured residential wood heaters. But some of the states with the most wood smoke are refus-

ing to go along, claiming that the EPA's new rules could leave low-income residents in the cold.

Missouri and Michigan already have barred their environmental agencies from enforcing the EPA standards. Similar measures recently passed Virginia's legislature and are pending in at least three other states, even though residents in some places say the rules don't do enough to clear the air.

It's been a harsh winter for many people, particularly those in regions repeatedly battered by snow. And the EPA's new

rules are stoking fears that some residents won't be able to afford new stoves when their older models give out.

"People have been burning wood since the beginning of recorded time," said Phillip Todd, 59, who uses a wood-fired furnace to heat his home in Holts Summit. "They're trying to regulate it out of existence, I believe, and they really have no concern about the economic consequences or the hardship it's going to cause."

Others contend the real hardship has fallen on neighbors

forced to breathe the smoke from winter wood fires.

The EPA typically relies on states to carry out its air quality standards. But states may not be able to effectively thwart the wood-burning rules, because federal regulators could step in to do the job if local officials don't.

"If the EPA wants to come in here and enforce it, come on in. (But) I'm not going to help them," said Michigan state Sen. Tom Casperson, whose law barring state enforcement of the EPA regulations takes effect March 31.

Nation

Bloody Sunday 50th anniversary: Thousands crowd Selma bridge

By KIM CHANDLER and
PHILLIP LUCAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SELMA, Ala. (AP)—Thousands of people crowded an Alabama bridge on Sunday, many jammed shoulder to shoulder, many unable to move, to commemorate a bloody confrontation 50 years ago between police and peaceful protesters that helped bring about the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

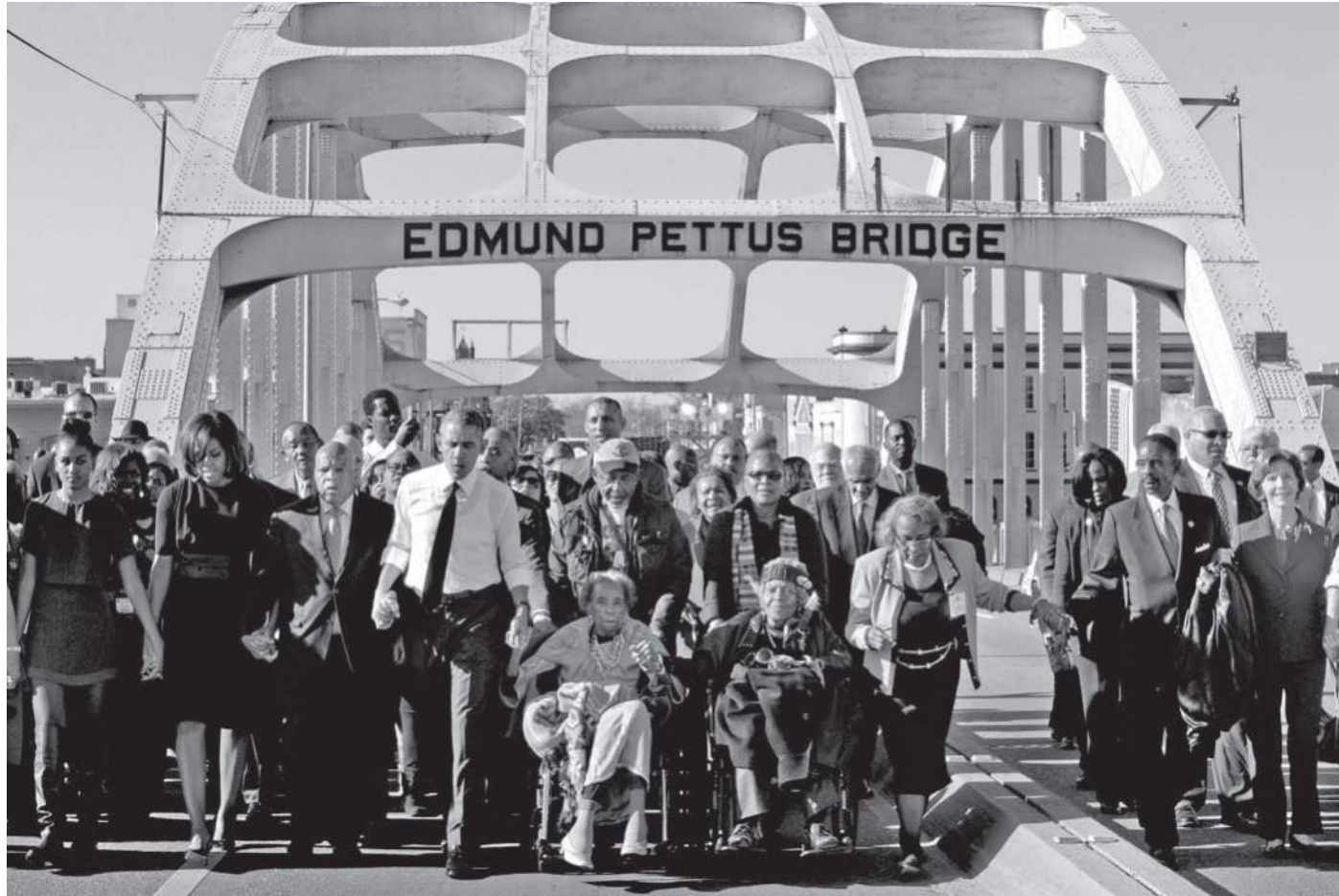
A day after President Barack Obama had walked atop the Edmund Pettus Bridge, police said tens of thousands of people had joined the crush on and around the small bridge. Many came from around the country for several events commemorating the landmark moment.

William Baldwin, 69, of Montgomery, brought his two grandsons, ages 11 and 15, to the bridge Sunday so they could grasp the importance of the historic march he took part in a half century earlier.

"They're going to take this struggle on and we have to understand the price that was paid for them to have what they have now," Baldwin said. "It wasn't granted to them, it was earned by blood, sweat and tears."

Some sang hymns and others held signs, such as "Black lives matter, all lives matter."

On March 7, 1965, police



President Barack Obama, fourth from left, walks holding hands with Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was beaten during "Bloody Sunday," as they and the first family and others including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., left of Obama, walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., for the 50th anniversary of the landmark event of the civil rights movement, Saturday, March 7, 2015.

beat and tear-gassed marchers at the foot of the bridge in Selma in a spasm of violence that shocked the nation. The attack help build momentum for passage of the Voting Rights Act

later that year.

Attorney General Eric Holder, speaking at Brown Chapel AME Church Sunday, drew parallels, without being explicit, between the events of 1965 and

today. He noted that the "Bloody Sunday" march was sparked by the shooting death of activist Jimmie Lee Jackson, "an unarmed, young black man."

"An unarmed, young black

man," he repeated.

Annie Pearl Avery, 71, recalled being arrested on Bloody Sunday as she tried to get a nurse to the bridge. She said it was one of many times she was arrested during the freedom rides of the 1960's.

The nurse was needed, she

said, because the young activists were uncertain if local white doctors were members of the Ku Klux Klan.

"I heard the explosions. I thought it was gunshots. It was the tear gas," Avery said.

Earlier Sunday, Selma officials paid tribute to the late President Lyndon Johnson for the Voting Rights Act. The attack on demonstrators preceded a Selma-to-Montgomery march, which occurred two weeks later in 1965. Both helped build momentum for congressional approval of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Luci Baines Johnson accepted the award on behalf of her father, saying it meant so much to see him honored.

"It means the world to me to know that a half-century later you remember how deeply Daddy cared about social justice and how hard he worked to make it happen," his daughter Luci Baines Johnson said.

An anniversary march from Selma to Montgomery is set to begin Monday morning and culminate with a rally at the Alabama Capitol Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, Obama joined civil rights leaders and others at the bridge and talked about progress in race relations since the 1960s. He mentioned recent high-profile clashes between citizens and law enforcement on the circumstances leading to fatal police shootings and law enforcement tactics toward minorities.

Justice Dept's Ferguson report resonates across the US

SEATTLE (AP)—Felix Vargas read the Justice Department's report on Ferguson, Missouri, and thought some of it sounded awfully familiar: a mostly white police department overseeing a mostly minority town; questionable uses of force; officers ill-equipped to deal with mentally ill residents.

They're the same issues his heavily Hispanic community, the agricultural Washington city of Pasco, has confronted since the fatal police shooting of an immigrant farmworker last month.

"We know Pasco is only the most recent area where

this has happened," said Vargas, chairman of a local Hispanic business organization called Consejo Latino. "We have a national problem. We continue to struggle with this issue of policing."

Ferguson has become an emblem of the tensions between minorities and police departments nationwide since Darren Wilson, a white officer, shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, last summer. The Justice Department cleared Wilson of criminal wrongdoing, but in its report last week, it made numerous allegations against the

city's police department that included racial disparities in arrests, bigotry and profit-driven law enforcement—essentially using the black community as a piggy bank to support the city's budget through fines.

Though the report centered on Ferguson, its findings have resonated beyond the St. Louis suburbs as residents in some communities across the country say they feel they face the same struggles with their police departments and city leadership.

President Barack Obama addressed the issue Friday on the eve of the 50th anniversary

of "Bloody Sunday" when police beat scores of people at a civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. While not typical, the issues raised in the Ferguson report also were not isolated, he said.

On Saturday, protesters took to the streets in Madison, Wisconsin, after the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 19-year-old by a white police officer, chanting "Black Lives Matter." Authorities said the police officer fired his weapon after he was assaulted. The officer was placed on administrative leave pending results of an investigation by an outside state agency.

Democratic ally urges Clinton to explain her email actions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton should fully explain her actions involving the use of a private, nongovernment email account when she was the country's top diplomat, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on Sunday, becoming the first major Democrat to urge Clinton to share more details of the private account.

Feinstein said the former first lady and New York senator "needs to step up and come out and say exactly what the situation was," adding that from "this point on, the silence is going to hurt her."

Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, avoided the controversy Sunday morning.

Asked whether his wife was treated fairly, Bill Clinton replied, "I'm not the one to judge that. I have an opinion, but I have a bias."

"I shouldn't be making news on this," he said, in remarks reported on CNN.com.

Hillary Clinton has been criticized for her use of the private email account and whether she complied with federal rules re-

quiring officials to retain their communications. Clinton says that she's turned over all relevant emails—totaling 55,000 pages—to the State Department for review.

Last week, the House committee investigating the Benghazi, Libya, attacks, issued subpoenas for Clinton's emails, and the chairman said Sunday, "We're not entitled to everything. I don't want everything. I just want everything related to Libya and Benghazi."

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said "there are gaps of months and months and months" in the emails the committee had previously received. "It's not up to Secretary Clinton to decide what's a public record and what's not."

Clinton is considered the front-runner for the party's 2016 presidential nomination, but hasn't entered the race yet. So far, a tweet has been her only comment on the controversy. She did not address the issue Saturday night during an event in Coral Gables, Florida, for the Clinton Global Initiative University.

Ice bikes gain traction in bitterly cold Buffalo, New York

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—If it were possible for anything to be hot in Buffalo this winter, it was the newfangled "ice bikes" that debuted at an outdoor skating rink.

The bicycles on ice skates were an immediate hit when they glided onto the Ice at Canalside the day the new rink opened on the city's waterfront.

Since that December day, the bundled riders who have ignored breath-taking cold to rent them have convinced in-

ventor Lisa Florczak that she's onto something. That, and the inquiries from several other cold-weather cities in Wyoming, Michigan, Minnesota and Canada interested in rolling them out next year.

"I had no idea if this would work or how people would respond," Florczak said on a recent afternoon as some Parkinson's patients tested the bikes for their exercise potential. "I thought I might end up being the laughingstock of the city."

Instead, she is relishing being part of Buffalo's efforts to revitalize its waterfront and draw people year-round, even when the Lake Erie breeze is something more endured than enjoyed. The bikes give even nonskaters a chance to try out the ice, along with the warm nuts, hot cocoa and craft beer sold at nearby kiosks.

Florczak's family business, Water Bikes of Buffalo, was renting pontoon bikes that let riders pedal the Buffalo River

in warmer months when economic development officials put out a call for ideas for the 33,000-square-foot ice rink being built nearby on a recreation of the Erie Canal.

"They said the ice is going to be pretty large, and they thought they might need something more than just skating," Florczak said.

Curling, hockey and broomball leagues emerged.

"I thought: 'What a perfect opportunity to go from water biking to ice biking,'" Florczak said.

Asia

Vowing never to give up, relatives mark MH370 anniversary

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Vowing never to give up on the desperate search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, family members of those aboard the plane wore symbolic T-shirts and released white balloons Sunday as they marked the anniversary of the jet's disappearance.

Gatherings were held in Kuala Lumpur, where the flight departed on March 8, 2014, and Beijing, where it was headed when it vanished with 239 people aboard. Despite an intensive yearlong search, no trace of the Boeing 777 has been found.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The first comprehensive report into the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 revealed Sunday that the battery of the locator beacon for the plane's data recorder had expired more than a year before the jet vanished on March 8, 2014.

The report came as Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the hunt for the plane would not end even if the scouring of the current search area off Australia's west coast comes up empty.

Apart from the anomaly of the expired battery, the detailed report devoted pages after pages describing the com-



Family members and relatives of passengers on board the ill fated Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 stand for a moment of silence during a remembrance event in a mall outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sunday, March 8, 2015.

plete normalcy of the flight, which disappeared while heading from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off aviation's biggest mystery.

"My daughter asks me every day, 'Where is Daddy? Why isn't he answering his phone?'" a teary-eyed Kelly Wen from China, whose husband was on

the plane, said at a gathering at a Kuala Lumpur mall to mark the anniversary.

The more than 100 people who gathered wore white T-

shirts with the picture of an airplane and bearing the words "Search on," as a video tribute of the passengers and crew members was played.

About 30 family members later went on stage for speeches and a group photo.

One man dedicated a poem to his cousin Anne Daisy, who was aboard the plane. "You have been hidden from me. I don't know where to search. When will we once again meet?" Raymond Gagarin said.

Daisy's 27-year-old daughter, Grace Subathirai Nathan, then gave a speech in tribute to her mother. Nathan, who helped organize the event, said she was in London when the tragedy occurred.

"Every day is like a living nightmare. I miss my mother so much. She was to me my everything," an emotional Nathan said. "It is so important that we have some form of closure. It is so important not to give up on the people that we love."

The families released white balloons to send "messages of hope to our loved ones wherever they may be," Nathan said.

A local singer wrote a song dedicated to the families, praying that "in the arms of the angels, may you find comfort."

Members of the public signed a tribute wall. They also signed a petition urging that the search for the plane does not end until it is found.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen attack Sufi center in Kabul, at least 6 killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two gunmen attacked a Sufi religious center in the Afghan capital Saturday evening, killing at least six civilians and wounding five others, according to Afghan authorities. The Kabul police chief's office said the gunmen escaped and were still on the loose following the attack Saturday evening. The Interior Ministry said the gunmen used pistols with silencers and attacked while people inside were busy praying. The ministry said five suspects have been arrested. Sufism is the mystical branch of the Islam. Although civilians are frequently targeted with violence in Afghanistan, attacks on religious houses of worship are relatively rare.

3 dead in Afghan prison riot, hostage standoff

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Inmates in northern Afghanistan killed two police officers they had taken hostage on Sunday during a prison riot in which an inmate was shot dead, an Afghan security official said. The riot erupted during a search for cellphones, knives and other contraband, said Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani, the police chief of northern Jawzjan province. Five officers and 10

inmates were wounded in the melee. The inmates managed to take two police officers and a criminal investigator hostage. They later killed the two officers and set the investigator on fire, thinking he was a prosecutor. He survived but is in critical condition, Jawzjani said, adding that local officials were trying to negotiate an end to the standoff.

Vinod Mehta, editor of India's Outlook magazine, dies at 73

NEW DELHI (AP)—Vinod Mehta, founding editor of India's Outlook magazine and a fearless and irreverent commentator on Indian politics, died Sunday. He was 73. Mehta died of multiple organ failure at New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences, said hospital spokesman Amit Gupta. In a career spanning four decades, Mehta launched several newspapers and magazines. But he was best known for his trenchant editorial columns on politics and the shenanigans of Indian politicians. Mehta was born in the city of Rawalpindi, in present-day Pakistan, in 1942. He spent his childhood in Lucknow, India. In 2011, he published his best-selling memoirs, "Lucknow Boy," followed a couple of years later by "Editor Unplugged."

South Korea's president visits injured US envoy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president visited injured U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert on Monday amid an outpouring of public sympathy and support for the envoy who is recovering from an attack by a knife-wielding man.

Lippert has been hospitalized since Thursday at Seoul's Severance Hospital, where Park Geun-hye also received treatment in 2006 when she was knifed by a man with a box cutter during an election rally. Park was then an opposition party leader.

Park's office said the president went to the hospital shortly after she returned to South Korea on Monday from a Middle East tour.

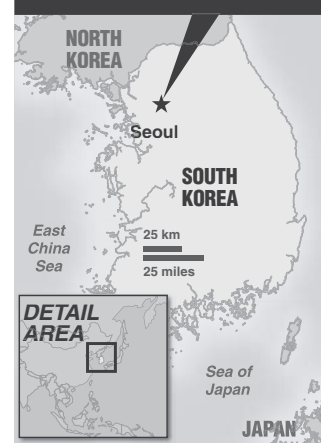
Park was quoted as saying "my heart ached more" be-

cause Lippert is in the same hospital because of a similar attack. Lippert told Park that he and his wife have been moved by the support the South Korea government and people have showed to him, according to a statement from the presidential Blue House.

Conservative activists and Christians have wished Lippert a quick recovery, held pro-U.S. rallies and conducted dance performances near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. High-level government officials and politicians have visited him, and one well-wishing man even tried to offer dog meat to him.

Hospital officials said they expect to release Lippert on Tuesday.

Knife attack injures U.S. ambassador to South Korea



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The attacker, known as an anti-U.S. activist with multiple criminal records including a conviction for hurling a piece

of concrete at the Japanese ambassador in Seoul in 2010, was arrested Friday for attempted murder and other charges.

The exact motive for Kim Ki-jong's attack was not known but he shouted after the attack that he opposes the ongoing U.S.-South Korea military drills that Pyongyang condemns as a preparation for a northward invasion.

Police said Monday that some of the books, computer disks and other materials found at his home support rival North Korea, which could result in charges of violating an anti-Pyongyang security law. Critics want the law abolished, saying past authoritarian rulers have used it to suppress their political opponents.

Aussie inmates' families visit Indonesian execution island

By **ROD MCGUIRK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Relatives of two Australian death row prisoners made their first visit on Monday to the Indonesian prison island where the convicted drug traffickers are to be executed soon by firing squads.

The two, Andrew Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 33, were flown Wednesday from the resort island of Bali to the Nusakambangan Island prison off Indonesia's main island of

Java. They are among nine foreigners and an Indonesian that the government says will be executed soon.

"We're just looking forward to seeing him," Michael Chan told reporters of his younger brother before the families took a ferry to the prison island from the port town of Cilacap.

"When we get over there, we'll give him a hug," he said.

Indonesian authorities are waiting for the death row inmates to exhaust all their legal appeals before setting execution dates. Families can visit the

prison island only on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Chan and Sukumaran will take their plea for clemency to an administrative court in Jakarta on Thursday.

Their lawyer Peter Morrissey said there was still some hope for the pair.

"The main promising thing for us is that they're not dead," Morrissey told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio on Monday.

"The way some officials were talking, they should have been dead weeks ago," he said.

Chan and Sukumaran were the ringleaders of a gang of nine Australians who were arrested in April 2005 while trying to smuggle more than 8 kilograms (18 pounds) of heroin from Bali to Sydney.

Besides the two Australians, a Nigerian national born in Spain was also transferred to the island prison. Two other Nigerians, a Filipino woman and four men from Brazil, France, Ghana and Indonesia are also scheduled to be executed. It was not immediately known how many have been transferred to the island.

World

Boko Haram bid to join IS offers propaganda boost to both

By MICHELLE FAUL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boko Haram's bid to forge an alliance with the Islamic State group in sub-Saharan Africa will provide only a propaganda boost for now, but in the long term it could internationalize a conflict restricted to Nigeria for nearly six years, analysts say.

The effort comes as both Islamic extremist groups have lost ground in recent weeks and as Nigeria's neighbors are forming a multinational army to confront Boko Haram.

By pledging allegiance to IS, Nigeria's home-grown militants have severed ties to al-Qaida, which is more powerful in the region, said Charlie Winter, a researcher at the London-based Quilliam Foundation.

Boko Haram has never been an affiliate of al-Qaida, but its militants fought alongside al-Qaida-linked groups during northern Mali's Islamic uprising two years ago, and some of its fighters have been trained in Somalia by al-Shabab, another group with ties to al-Qaida, according to the group's propaganda.

Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, reportedly pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in an audio posted Saturday on Twitter. It could take three or four weeks for IS



In this photo taken on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, Chadian soldiers on top of a truck, left, speak to Cameroon soldiers, right, standing next to the truck, on the border between Cameroon and Nigeria as they form part of the force to combat regional Islamic extremists force's including Boko Haram, near the town of Gambarou, Nigeria.

to formally respond, as has been the case with affiliates in Egypt, Yemen and Libya.

An alliance "would lend a more imposing quality to Islamic State with its expansionist model," Winter said. The move

was symbolically "a striking development," but he doubted it would "change things on the ground in either Nigeria or Iraq and Syria."

But "over time this pledge of allegiance might lead to the

internationalization" of a threat that until now has been mostly confined to a single region of Nigeria with occasional spillover into neighboring countries, warned J. Peter Pham, director of the Washington-based Atlan-

tic Council's Africa Center.

Boko Haram was little known until its April 2014 abduction of nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls from a school in the remote town of Chibok drew international outrage. At the time, al-

Baghdadi praised the Nigerian insurgents and said the mass kidnapping was justification for the IS abduction of Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq.

A partnership with IS could also be a recruiting tool. Fighters from IS franchises in North Africa who find it harder to migrate to the Middle East may choose to move to a Boko Haram emirate instead, Pham said.

The international support pouring into anti-Boko Haram forces from the United States, France, the United Kingdom and others "may render the Nigerian militants' fight all the more attractive to these foreign jihadists," Pham said.

The core of Boko Haram's estimated 4,000 to 6,000 militants is from the Kanuri tribe, which spreads across colonial-era borders in a region where people show stronger allegiance to tribes than states.

In August, Boko Haram declared it was reviving an ancient Islamic caliphate in northeastern Nigeria that spilled over those borders, in a move copying the Islamic State group. But Boko Haram's brutality, including beheadings and enslavement, predates and in some cases arguably exceeds that of IS, according to Pham.

Pham expects Boko Haram to engage in even more gruesome tactics if it wins the support of IS.

Russian court charges 2, detains 3 others in Nemtsov killing

MOSCOW (AP)—Five men were behind bars Sunday either charged or suspected in the killing of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov, but details remained unclear in the case that has shaken Russia's marginalized and struggling opposition movement.

The five appeared in a Moscow court, where two of them were charged in connection with the shooting of Nemtsov as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin on Feb. 27. The other three were remanded to jail pending the filing of charges, which Russian law says must be done within 10 days.

Russian news reports meanwhile cited unnamed sources as saying another suspect had killed himself with a grenade after police blocked his apartment on Saturday in Grozny, the capital of the republic of Chechnya. There was no official comment from Moscow on the reports, but Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov appeared to partially confirm it Sunday.

One of the judges in the two separate hearings said suspect Zaur Dadaev had acknowledged involvement, but Dadaev did not admit guilt in the courtroom, according to state-

run and independent news agencies in Russia. The other suspect who was charged, Anzor Gubashev, denied guilt, the reports said.

The three others include Gubashev's younger brother Shagid, along with Khamzad Bakhaev and Tamerlan Eskerkhanov, state news agency Tass reported.

All five are from Chechnya or other parts of the restive North Caucasus, according to news agencies. Their origin raises a potentially sensitive issue, given the significant animosity for Caucasus groups among ethnic Russians.

Chechnya suffered two intense wars over the past two decades between Russian forces and separatist rebels increasingly under the sway of fundamentalist Islam. That reinforced the stereotype among many Russians of Chechens as violent extremists.

Kadyrov, the current Chechen president, has himself imposed many Islamic rules on Chechnya, including the wearing of headscarves by women, but is also a vehement loyalist of Russian President Vladimir Putin and has blamed Nemtsov's killing on Western security services.

Iraqis living under IS rule fear liberation means reprisals

BAGHDAD (AP)—Mosul resident Mohammed Younis says he had nothing to do with the Islamic State group's capture of his city or its mass killings, beheadings and other atrocities -- but that may not be enough to spare him if the extremists are driven out.

A letter left on his doorstep by a shadowy group calling itself the Freeman of Mosul said "vengeance is coming," and contained vague threats of eye-for-an-eye retribution. Dozens of other Mosul families have

reported similar threats, and as Iraqi forces backed by feared Shiite militias gradually push up from Baghdad into the Sunni heartland, some fear the retreat of the extremist group could set off a new round of violence.

Younis thinks he was targeted because his cousin is a suspected Islamic State militant. "Because of the acts of a criminal cousin, me and some of my relatives will be killed or displaced," he said. "We have nothing to do with Daesh, but I think that nobody will listen

when payback time comes," he added, using the Arabic acronym for the group.

Iraqi troops and Iranian-backed Shiite militias launched a long-awaited offensive this month aimed at capturing Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, a Sunni bastion on the Tigris river whose capture would pave the way for an assault on Mosul, which could come as soon as next month.

Iraq's government has sought to rally Sunni support, hoping to recruit powerful

tribes to drive out the extremists and reunite the country. But past offensives have been followed by threats and reports of vicious sectarian reprisals.

Last week, New York-based Human Rights Watch called on the Iraqi government to protect civilians in Tikrit and allow them to flee combat zones. Its statement noted "numerous atrocities" against Sunni civilians by pro-government militias and security forces, ranging from "summary executions, revenge killings, or other abuses."

WORLD BRIEFS

Netanyahu says Israel will not cede land to Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel will not cede any territory due to the current climate in the Middle East, appearing to rule out the establishment of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu's comments, which came as he sought to appeal to hard-liners ahead of national elections next week, rejected a key goal of the international community and bode poorly for reviving peace efforts if he is re-elected. "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that any evacuated territory would fall into the hands of Islamic extremism and terror organizations supported by Iran. Therefore, there will be no concessions and no withdrawals. It is simply irrelevant," read a statement released by his Likud party.

Canada and Kurds disagree over soldier's death in Iraq

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—Canadian and Kurdish officials on Sunday offered conflicting accounts of the death of a Canadian soldier in a friendly-fire incident in Iraq, with the Kurds saying he was on the front lines directing airstrikes and the Canadians saying he was not there to

direct airstrikes that night and was well behind the front line when shot by Kurdish fighters. The death of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Friday marked Canada's first casualty as part of the U.S.-led coalition's war on the extremist Islamic State group. Three other Canadian soldiers were injured in the incident. Kurdish officials said Sunday that Doiron was killed after he and other Canadian soldiers showed up to the front line unannounced to call in airstrikes.

Solar-powered plane takes off for flight around the world

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A Swiss solar-powered plane took off from Abu Dhabi early Monday, marking the start of the first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fuel. Solar Impulse founder André Borschberg was at the controls of the single-seater when it took off from the Al Bateen Executive Airport. Borschberg will trade off piloting with Solar Impulse co-founder Bertrand Piccard during stop-overs on a journey that will take months to complete. The Swiss pilots say their aim is to create awareness about replacing "old polluting technologies with clean and efficient technologies."

Focus

A year on, what's the latest in the hunt for Flight 370?

Never EVER Give Up

MH370

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A year has passed since Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 vanished on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, sparking one of the most perplexing mysteries of modern times. Since then, search crews have taken to air, land and sea in a thus-far fruitless hunt for the plane and the 239 people who disappeared with it.

The current phase of the search in the deep, dark and desolate waters of the Indian Ocean has failed to yield a single clue about the plane's fate. Still, despite the lack of fresh leads, the official heading up the search is no less optimistic than when it began.

Here is a look at the latest in the hunt for Flight 370:

Q: How far along is the search?

A: Crews have scoured more than 40 percent of the priority search zone—a 60,000-square-kilometer (23,000-square-mile) area of the Indian Ocean about 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) west of Australia. An international team of investigators who

analyzed transmissions between the aircraft and a satellite believe this is where the plane eventually crashed.

Q: How much longer is the search expected to take?

A: Despite occasional delays due to rough weather and equipment snafus, officials believe they're on track to finish searching the priority zone by May.

Q: What happens if they don't find the plane?

A: One option includes expanding the search beyond the priority zone to a wider search area—an imposing, 1.1-million-square-kilometer (425,000-square-mile) stretch of ocean, says Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss. Exactly how long that would take to complete, and how much it would cost, is unknown.

Ministers from Australia and Malaysia—which have each contributed \$60 million to the current search effort—will be meeting with their Chinese counterpart next month to decide whether—and how—to fund another search.

“Obviously, the more partners we have in the search, the greater the capacity to search a larger area,” Truss says. “And so we’d certainly welcome participation from other countries.”

If officials decided to extend

the search, they would want to continue using the vessels, crews and equipment currently looking for the plane, Truss says.

Q: How is the search being conducted?

A: There are four ships, each with around 30 people on board, combing the priority zone. Three of the ships are dragging sonar devices called “towfish” just above the seabed to scan for wreckage. In January, a fourth ship, the Fugro Supporter, joined the hunt.

The Supporter is using an autonomous underwater vehicle—essentially an unmanned submarine—that can more easily maneuver along the mountainous, uneven seabed in a few areas the towfish can't fully cover. Unlike the towfish, the underwater drone doesn't send real-time data back to the ship, so crews must haul it up at the end of each 24- to 36-hour mission to download the data.

The ships head back to shore every four weeks or so to get fresh supplies—a trip that takes up to six days each way.

Q: Are searchers still looking for floating wreckage?

A: Technically, yes, says Martin Dolan, chief commissioner of the Australian Transport

Safety Bureau, which is leading the search. After studying the area's currents, Australian officials asked Indonesia in August to watch for any debris that might have floated west to the island nation's shores. Officials are now reviewing their drift modeling to see whether they need to revise their projections of where debris could have ended up. But because so much time has passed, Dolan says all surface debris likely sank long ago.

Q: Do the chances of finding the plane in the priority zone become less likely as the search drags on?

A: No, Dolan says, because they haven't been able to pinpoint any areas within the search zone where the plane would have had a higher probability of crashing. Officials could only narrow down the most likely crash site to the 60,000-square-kilometer (23,000-square-mile) priority zone. “Some people think there's a hot spot in there that should be a starting point, but it's pretty much equal priority across that area,” Dolan says. “So it's no great surprise that having covered 40 percent, we haven't located it yet. It might be down to the last 1 percent before we do.”

Q: What happens if they find

the plane?

A: Australia recently asked for expressions of interest from companies with equipment capable of retrieving wreckage from the seabed, which is an average of 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) deep. But bringing it to the surface would be complex.

Search officials would first need permission from the governments involved—namely Malaysia and Australia—to retrieve the wreckage. Then they would have to figure out the best way to do so.

Officials would need to map the area, photograph the debris and get specialized vessels, crews and equipment to the remote search site. All told, Dolan estimates that if the plane is found on the seabed, it would be at least a month before the recovery process even begins.

Q: If the plane is found underwater, what kind of condition would it be in after a year?

A: Although pressure on a plane deep in the ocean would be extreme, currents at those depths would be relatively mild—meaning there's no real concern about debris continuing to scatter once it hit the seabed. After studying the condition of the wreckage from Air France Flight 447, which was found

at a similar depth two years after crashing into the Atlantic Ocean, officials think any underwater debris from the Malaysian plane would be relatively well-preserved.

“It's not going to be a pristine aircraft,” Dolan says. “But for our purposes, we expect that the aircraft remains will be in satisfactory condition.”

Q: Do officials still think they'll find Flight 370?

A: Dolan, who all along has expressed “cautious optimism” that they will find the plane, says his feelings haven't changed. If anything, he leans more toward optimism than caution these days.

He's cautious because of the scant data that led them to focus their search on the Indian Ocean. “This is hugely dependent on technical analysis of quite limited satellite information,” he says. “We're always as confident as we can be in the reliability of that, but we have to remind ourselves it's not certain—it's only highly likely.”

Conversely, he's optimistic because he is confident in the search crews and equipment, and the high quality of data they're getting from the sonar.

“If the aircraft is out there,” Dolan says, “we will find it.”

Overdrive

By TERRY BOX

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Even sitting silent in a warm, dry garage, the boulevard barbarian glared hard, oozing maroon-colored menace.

I kept my distance. All high-performance cars can be as prickly as a schizoid ex—and just as high-maintenance.

But the fast-and-furious Nissan GT-R radiates “different” the way Billy Bob Thornton does—a slightly unsettling mix of cold efficiency blended with the personality of an assassin on steroids.

Who doesn’t love the GT-R’s retina-flattening acceleration and its ability to corner so violently that your heart ends up somewhere below your liver?

I just never liked the car very much.

Consider this: The designers of the GT-R apparently found much of their inspiration in large industrial robots—Carbot, the Microsoft killer.

For 2015, though, Nissan sought to soften the GT-R just a tad while maintaining its ruthless road manners.

I know, I know. With the way Nissan has cranked out commodity cars of late, we have good reason to be skeptical.

But, hey, when you’re dealing with a near-legendary all-wheel-drive coupe that bristles with 545 angry horsepower and can swat most Porsches, would you really take any chances of messing it up?

Of course not, and Nissan did a pretty good job of smoothing a few of the GT-R’s rough edges while preserving most of its sinister clanks, whirrs and whooshes.

Among the changes were new spring rates and dampers, along with a softer front anti-roll bar and bushings.

Most of the time now, you no longer feel the need to pull on a Nomex racing suit and grab a helmet before hopping into the track-hungry GT-R.

The deeply maroon 2015 Premium model I had recently looked exactly like GT-Rs did when they arrived in the U.S. in 2009—just with a bit more sheen and polish.

With still-classic proportions, the GT-R defiantly faced the world with a long, broad hood, huge vertical headlights and oversized grille.

The car’s low-slung top curved down into a flat, short trunk still wearing a laughably large—albeit functional—spoiler.

It ain’t beautiful, kids. But the GT-R still sports a bunch of interesting features like unusual squared-off front fenders.

The doors and rear fenders also get puffed up some with shoulders on their tops, and in back, the GT-R mutters darkly at traffic through five-inch diameter exhausts—two on each side of the rear fascia.

Above the giant pipes, four



MCT
Priced at \$106,650, the Nissan GT-R is more than twice as expensive as any other vehicle in Nissan's lineup, accounting for only about 1,400 sales a year.

signature round taillamps continue to proclaim that this is definitely, absolutely, assuredly no Altima Coupe.

Though mostly square in shape, the GT-R looked ominously muscular, crouched low on meaty 255/40 tires wrapped around gray 10-spoke wheels.

In fact, the big coupe seems so substantial that it’s hard to believe that a relatively small 3.8-liter V-6 lives beneath its vented hood—and makes mind-bending power.

At \$106,650, the GT-R is more than twice as expensive as any other vehicle in Nissan’s mostly pedestrian lineup, accounting for only about 1,400 sales a year.

So the big all-wheel-drive coupe is either grossly overpriced or packs some monster content, and I’d bet Chateau Box and my 1/8th-acre vineyard out back on unique parts and pieces.

The intercooled and turbocharged V-6 starts with a barely muted bang, settling into a flat, impatient 900-rpm idle.

Push the console-mounted shift lever to the right to engage the manual mode of the GT-R’s dual-clutch six-speed automatic transmission—a process that generally elicited a clunk and clang.

You can leave it in automatic mode, but I don’t recommend it. The transmission feels as clumsy as me at a senior singles sock-hop, upshifting at 3,000 rpm and just seeming generally out of step.

(I try not to upshift while I’m sock-hopping, but, hey, stuff happens.)

Use the paddle shifts, and once in first, ease into the accelerator.

Up to about 2,000 rpm, the GT-R feels no more lively than a 370Z convertible—adequate but hardly awesome.

But from there to the car’s 7,000 rpm red line, the two-

ton terminator accelerates with shocking, chest-compressing velocity, howling hoarsely with little wheel spin to 60 in an utterly astounding 3 seconds, according to Car and Driver.

Go easy on the beast, and you might manage to scratch out 16 miles per gallon in town and 23 on the highway. (I never did.)

Moreover, take a big gulp and toss Godzilla into a high-speed corner. The steering feels thick and heavy, but really quick.

While hardly surgical or graceful, the GT-R tears flatly into curves, relying on a really firm suspension and four driving wheels to stay on course.

Although slightly improved, particularly on smooth pavement, the coupe was still as stiff as an investment banker, tripping pretty hard over potholes and bumps.

All kinds of noise accompanied every trip—clomps from the tires, growls and howls from the exhaust, burps, whooshes and whirrs from under the hood and occasional clangs and rattles all over.

If you tire of the race-car concerto, find some wide-open pavement and push hard on the magic pedal—while muttering a little prayer for your driver’s license.

In seven short seconds from a dead stop—less time than it took to read the last paragraph—you can hit 100 mph.

You might as well have some fun with the GT-R. There was little to relish in my car’s black interior.

A flat, deep dashboard swept over a large boy-racer center stack with a surprisingly small six-inch display screen on top.

Techno-types can dip into the screen and fiddle with the car’s settings, including launch control, which seems pretty appropriate.

Black leather covered the

hood over the instrument panel and the top of the center stack. The average-looking bucket seats, offering fine support, also appeared to be leather.

Also in black leather, the minimalist back seat provided sufficient space for a couple of Chihuahuas—in helmets, of course.

Just about everything else came in hard plastic—in a six-figure car.

I took that as confirmation that most of the GT-R’s content is beneath its skin, where it should be.

Granted, only a handful of hard-core enthusiasts will ever step up and buy a wild-child GT-R.

But I think it shouts more about Nissan’s engineering capabilities than 10,000 Murano crossovers.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Nissan GT-R Premium

- Type of vehicle: All-wheel-drive, four-passenger (nominal) high-performance coupe
- Price as tested: \$106,650
- Fuel economy: 16 miles per gallon city, 23 highway
- Weight: 3,915 pounds
- Engine: Twin-turbocharged, intercooled 3.8-liter V-6 with 545 horsepower and 463 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Dual-clutch six-speed automatic with paddle shifters
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 3 seconds

UNDER THE HOOD

Dim headlights probably caused by cloudy lenses, but just in case...

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I believe my headlights have become dim and am wondering how to check if this is true. Both the high beams and low beams seem similarly affected. The plastic lenses are slightly cloudy but I think there’s more to this than that. Would replacing the bulbs help?—Roger

A: Roger, I’d start by purchasing a headlamp lens polishing kit. According to a 2014 Consumer Reports article, the Sylvania (\$21) and 3M (\$15) headlight restoration kits seem to work the best of all brands they tested and the results can certainly improve headlight brightness. The Sylvania process is done entirely by hand (six steps) and the 3M kit is used in conjunction with an electric drill (four steps, be careful of marring other nearby surfaces). Both processes involve a fair amount of work but provide impressive results.

Should this still not provide the brightness you hope for, some testing is in order.

Whenever an electrical component works questionably, the fault could be the electrical source, the circuit delivering electricity to the component or the component itself. Your electrical source is the charging system and battery. If the vehicle is starting and driving well, it’s unlikely a problem lies here. The wiring and switches controlling the low and high beam headlights can develop electrical resistance over time. A corroded connector, oxidized switch contact or loose ground connection can reduce lamp performance by a noticeable amount, as can the sum of several small faults throughout the circuit loop. Known as voltage drops, these shortchange the component of voltage needed for good performance. Headlight bulbs typically work well or not at all, so they are an unlikely suspect unless cloudy. Headlights

typically employ individual ground circuits (a wire bolted to the vehicle body) so it’s more likely a fault affecting both lamps is on the positive side of the circuit.

Testing a headlight circuit is easy if you possess a basic voltmeter and can access the wiring connector behind the lamps. Temporarily insert a T-pin into each of the two or three terminals at the back of a headlight connector, making sure the pin heads do not touch each other (the connector must be attached to the headlight during testing). With the engine off and the low beam headlights turned on, start by measuring the voltage between the vehicle’s positive and negative battery terminals. Next, measure between the T-pins, trying differing combinations as necessary until a similar but smaller voltage is seen. If headlight (delivered) voltage is within 1 volt of battery (supplied) voltage, the circuit’s voltage drop is acceptable, and

they’re likely as bright as they can be. Test each headlight, and then do this again with the high beams selected.

If the difference between battery voltage and headlamp voltage exceeds 1 volt, further circuit testing is necessary to determine the cause, and this may be best left to a pro. If both the low and high beams are identically afflicted, the headlamp switch is a possible culprit. For those who desire the highest possible headlight performance an aftermarket relay kit can often provide a more direct/efficient electrical path to the headlamps.

The voltage drop testing procedure mentioned above can also be applied to practically any component on the vehicle. It’s quick, easy and leaves almost nothing to chance.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

MYLYN WOOD AND LAURA BENSON

'Saipan is a prime location for wedding shoots'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

That the island can be discovered with new eyes—with each snap of a camera—is no secret to local photographers Mylyn Wood and Laura Benson.

Wood and Benson told *Saipan Tribune* of their love of this little capital of the Northern Marianas: its beaches, weather, natural beauty, and warm and friendly people—but also how, unfortunately, these same things do not get noticed anymore by people here.

Their goals as photographers, they say, is to “promote Saipan as it is.”

Last Valentine’s Day, they staged a wedding shoot on Tank Beach with friends and acquaintances, using—they emphasized—all local items to showcase this, e.g., jewelry from Star Jewelry and a cake from Java Bakery.

Even the wedding dress was tailored locally.

This versus the \$1,000 couples can spend on an indoor wedding, when the raw materials of a lasting memory are right outside.

“We really just wanted to



promote Saipan the way it is,” Wood said. A wedding can still be “fashionable, affordable, and current” with just local supplies, she said.

From what they hear, photographers feel that people “do want to have more traditional wedding Saipan-style”—“but they don’t know how to do it,” they said.

The stylized wedding shoot was done in a month, under less than \$500. That included

cake, flowers, dress, and jewelry for the shoot.

They wanted the culture in it, they said, the entire island. And they believe Saipan can be that spot for locals and tourists alike for gorgeous and natural wedding shoots.

‘That moment

Wood and Benson shoot weddings, portraits, bridal or maternity shoots, among others.

“We do little projects on the sides,” said Benson. “To get the creative juices out, we showcase ideas.”

Wood calls her style “very emotional” while Benson’s style is more “modern, bold.”

Originally from the mainland, they prefer the local scenes of beaches, cliff sides and ocean, and natural light as ingredients in their shoots.

Not new to the weather here, the two know who to work with the moment, so to speak.

Benson recalled one shoot of a couple, where it had



CREDITS

Photographers: Mylyn Wood of Mylyn Wood Photography, Lauren Benson of Lauren Benson Photography

Videographer: Salvi Villa Nueva Productions

Cake: Java Bakery

Flowers: Kagman High Floral Design

Jewelry & Accessories: Star Jewelry

their clients to find locations that suit them.

“We like to tell a story—where they are in life, how did they get there,” Wood said.

The search for “that moment”—where things are as they are, and color themselves—has brought them to many beaches and spots on island that some would never think to hold a wedding or even shoot.

They want that shot where “the emotion just hits you in the face.”

Local shoots versus ones indoors are simple, easy and affordable, they said.

They come “without a lot of the worry and the price tag,” said Wood.

Benson lists Tank, Ladder, Obyan, Wing, and Paupau beaches as some of her favorites.

She described a pink sunrise at one beach, where “everything lights up.”

Wood said Banzai Cliff is memorable for the view of the waves crashing below, and the continuous view of the mountain and fields at sunset.

Even shoots at the Veteran’s Cemetery field, and in the island’s wetlands—“turned out to be beautiful,” they said.

The wetland’s “super tall grass,” Wood said, can give a “soft, romantic feel” to the shoot.


Someone even thanked them for it, they said. The person had been raised around the wetlands, and appreciated how that part of her life and island got highlighted.

Wood believes that “Saipan’s eyes can be opened,” by turning to its local scenes for lasting memories, versus commercial shoots.

Wood pointed out that in some places, you have to pay to go to crowded and noisy beaches.

But here, you just look out your window, or go for a short drive.

In Loving Memory of



†PHILIP VILLANUEVA

Born to Life: February 4, 2002 | Called to Eternal Life: March 2, 2015

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: Ma. Rosario “Maro” Dela Torre
Father: Jose Villanueva, Jr.
Brother: Moris Jose Villanueva
Grandparents: Rodolfo and Rosita dela Torre
Aunties and Uncle:
 Rebecca and Paul Soliven (*Christian Joseph, Janine and Yoann Soliven, Christine Marie Soliven*)
 Marita and Ruperto Garcia Jr. (*Mark, Ruth, Matthew Garcia*)
 Ruby and Antonio Legaspi Jr. (*Elie Gabriel, Juan Carlo and Luis Legaspi*)
 Reynald and Lorna dela Torre (*Mary Rose, Ronald Angelo, Rachel dela Torre*)

He will be deeply missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Church on March 11, 2015 at 6 pm.
 Interment will be on March 11, 2015 at Himlayang Pilipino (Manila) at 11:30am.

Ringling Bros. says circuses to be elephant-free in 3 years



POLK CITY, Florida (AP)—Animal rights activists were stunned and pleased when the parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced it would eliminate elephants from its circus performances by 2018. But activists soon focused on the timing, questioning why it will take three years to phase out the elephants from the traveling circus shows.

"Many of the elephants are

painfully arthritic, and many have tuberculosis, so their retirement day needs to come now," wrote Ingrid E. Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, in a statement. "If the decision is serious, then the circus needs to do it NOW."

Executives at Feld Entertainment, Ringling's parent company, say it will take three years to build proper facilities for them on the 200-acre (80-hectare)

plot of land in central Florida that's already being used as an elephant conservation center. They have repeatedly denied that the elephants are mistreated in any way in the circuses.

"Each elephant requires a certain amount of space and a certain amount of barn area," said Stephen Payne, Feld's spokesman, adding that permits, drainage issues and other logistics must be worked out.

The company intends for the elephants to live out their years on the property, and since one elephant is 69, they must plan for the long haul to care for the crop of gentle giants.

The decision to phase out elephants from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus comes at a time when cities across the United States are cracking down on exotic animal displays.

Even before Thursday's announcement that the elephants will be phased out of Ringling's performances by 2018, company officials already said they were pulling out of certain cities because of newly enacted restrictions.

Feld executives said the decision to end the circus's century-old tradition of showcasing elephants was difficult and debated at length. Elephants have often been featured on Ringling's posters over the decades.

Feld owns 43 elephants, 29 of which live at the company's 200-acre (80-hectare) Center for Elephant Conservation in central Florida. Thirteen animals will continue to tour with the circus before retiring to the center by 2018.

Another reason for the decision, company President Kenneth Feld said, was that certain cities and counties have passed "anti-circus" and "anti-elephant" ordinances. The company's three shows visit 115 cities throughout the year, and Feld said it's expensive to fight legislation in each jurisdiction. It's also difficult to plan tours amid constantly changing regulations, he said.

"All of the resources used to fight these things can be put toward the elephants," Feld said during an interview at the conservation center. "We're not reacting to our critics; we're creating the greatest resource for the preservation of the Asian elephant."

Carol Bradley, the author of the book "Last Chain on Billie: How One Extraordinary

Elephant Escaped the Big Top," which is about a non-Ringling circus elephant, said she believes the Feld family "realized it was a losing PR battle."

"This is an enormous, earth-moving decision," she said. "When I heard the news, my jaw hit the floor. I never thought they'd change their minds about this."

In 2014, Feld Entertainment won \$25.2 million in settlements from a number of animal-rights groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, ending a 14-year legal battle over allegations that Ringling circus employees mistreated elephants.

The initial lawsuit was filed in 2000 by a former Ringling barn helper who was later found to have been paid at least \$190,000 by the animal-rights groups that helped bring the lawsuit. The judge called him "essentially a paid plaintiff" who lacked credibility and standing to sue. The judge rejected the abuse claims following a 2009 trial.

The circus will continue to use tigers, dogs and goats, and a Mongolian troupe of camel stunt riders joined its Circus Xtreme show this year. More motorports, daredevils and feats of human physical capabilities will likely be showcased as well.

Ringling's popular Canada-based competitor, Cirque du Soleil, features human acts and doesn't use wild animals.

And while Ringling is phasing out the elephants, other, smaller circuses in the U.S.—and in countries such as Russia, France and Thailand—still use elephants.

'Chappie' tops slow weekend, 'Unfinished Business' tanks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neither a hyper-intelligent robot nor Vince Vaughn could save the box office this weekend, which is down 38.5 percent from the same weekend last year, according to Sunday estimates from box office firm Rentrak.

While Neill Blomkamp's R-rated "Chappie" might have taken the No. 1 spot in its 3,201 theater debut, its modest \$13.3 million gross is hardly anything to celebrate. It's a career low for Blomkamp, whose previous films "Elysium" and "District 9" debuted at \$29.8 and \$37.4 million, respectively.

Distributor Sony remains optimistic about its \$49 million film about a police robot (voiced by Sharlto Copley) that learns how to think and feel.

"It certainly opened in our realm of expectations for it for the weekend," said Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution. He noted that the demographic breakdown of 60 percent male and 57 percent under 30 was good for the film.

Sony and its subsidiar-

ies have released all three of Blomkamp's films. "I certainly believe, like Neill's other movies, that it's going to have a really strong multiple, and we're going to come out fine on the movie," Bruer said.

The R-rated Vince Vaughn comedy "Unfinished Business" fared even worse, opening at No. 10 to a dismal \$4.8 million. The \$35 million film about a chaotic European business trip also stars Dave Franco and Tom Wilkinson.

In its second weekend in theaters, Will Smith's "Focus" fell an estimated 46 percent to take second place with \$10 million, bringing its domestic total to \$34.6 million.

"These are not exactly world class numbers," said Paul Dergarabedian, Rentrak's senior media analyst. "This is two weekends in a row where we've seen original R-rated movies just not resonate with audiences with 'Focus' last weekend and 'Chappie' this weekend."

One bright spot was Fox Searchlight's retiree comedy "The Second Best Exotic Mari-

gold Hotel," which opened in third place with a strong \$8.6 million from 1,573 locations.

"It's one of the very rare instances of an indie sequel. You normally don't see that," Dergarabedian said. The PG-rated film, which reunites Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy, will be expanding to about 1,800 screens next weekend.

The first film was somewhat of a sleeper hit in 2012, grossing \$46.4 million domestically on a budget of \$10 million.

Holdovers "Kingsman: The Secret Service" and "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" rounded out the top five with \$8.3 million and \$7 million, respectively.

"This is the proverbial calm before the storm. We're still on track for a massive, record-breaking year. But there are going to be a lot of casualties along the way, and we're seeing that right now," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the

latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Chappie,"** \$13.3 million (\$13.7 million international).
2. **"Focus,"** \$10 million (\$17.7 million international).
3. **"The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,"** \$8.6 million (\$5.6 million international).
4. **"Kingsman: The Secret Service,"** \$8.3 million (\$17 million international).
5. **"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water,"** \$7 million (\$9.6 million international).
6. **"Fifty Shades of Grey,"** \$5.6 million (\$17.7 million international).
7. **"McFarland, USA,"** \$5.3 million.
8. **"The Lazarus Effect,"** \$5.1 million (\$700,000 international).
9. **"The DUFF,"** \$4.9 million.
10. **"Unfinished Business,"** \$4.8 million (\$2.6 million international).

Jury hears closing arguments in 'Blurred Lines' case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Singers Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams lied about how they crafted the 2013 hit "Blurred Lines" and should be financially punished for using music by Marvin Gaye, a lawyer for the late singer's family told a jury Thursday.

An attorney for Williams and Thicke, however, said his clients did nothing wrong in evoking the feeling of Gaye's music, and determining they improperly copied his work would have a chilling effect on musicians and other artists.

The dueling portrayals of deceit and creative expression emerged during closing arguments in the copyright infringement case filed by Gaye's chil-

dren against the contemporary hit-makers.

Lawyer Richard Busch, who represents Gaye's children, accused Williams and Thicke of repeatedly changing their stories about how they created "Blurred Lines." He urged the jury to find that the song infringed on the copyright for his 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up."

Busch told the eight-person panel that they could award millions of dollars to the heirs of the deceased singer.

"When you do something wrong and you lie about it, there are consequences," Busch said during his closing argument.

Howard King, lead attorney for Williams, Thicke and rapper T.I., told jurors a verdict for the

Gaye family would stifle artists and inhibit musicians trying to recreate an era or genre of music. Williams has said that was his intent with "Blurred Lines."

"This is more important than money," King said.

"Blurred Lines" was the biggest hit of 2013 and was nominated for a Grammy Award. T.I.'s rap track was added after it was recorded in mid-2012. He did not testify at the trial that started Feb. 24.

The jury began deliberations on Thursday and will resume Friday.

AP
Pharrell Williams leaves Los Angeles Federal Court after testifying at trial in Los Angeles, Wednesday, March 4, 2015.



Carrie no longer CIA officer in next season of 'Homeland'



AP
Claire Danes arrives at the 32nd Annual Paleyfest Opening Night Presentation: "Homeland" held at the The Dolby Theatre on Friday, March 6, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Linka Glatter, referring to the fourth season's new plot direction and darker-than-ever twists.

Showtime renewed the show for a fifth season in November.

PaleyFest organizers said about 20,000 fans were expected over the course of the 10-day festival.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Time will fly between the fourth and fifth season of the Showtime spy drama "Homeland," the series' executive producer Alex Gansa said.

"We're going to take about a two-year forward jump," Gansa said Friday at the opening night of PaleyFest, the annual TV celebration at the Dolby Theatre.

On the purple carpet, Gansa said the next "Homeland" season will be filmed in Europe, most likely in Berlin. He said the setting would be Germany.

The fourth season of "Homeland" was shot in Cape Town, South Africa, which doubled for Islamabad and Kabul.

Gansa later told the PaleyFest audience that CIA officer Carrie Mathison, played by series star Claire Danes, will no longer be an intelligence officer.

Many of the "Homeland" crew members said the fourth season was critical to the series, given the death of the character of Brody, portrayed by Damian Lewis, on the third season. So the show got a "reboot," said director Lesli

Cayman officials end sea search for US comic book artist

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP)—Authorities in the Cayman Islands have ended a search for a U.S. comic book artist who went missing while snorkeling with his wife during a vacation.

A Saturday evening police statement says authorities in the British Caribbean territory have ended their active search

for Norman Lee of Weymouth, Massachusetts.

The 47-year-old artist's wife returned to shore last week after they separated while snorkeling about 250 yards (about 230 meters) off Grand Cayman. Boats, divers and a helicopter crew searched for Lee. But no sign of

him has turned up.

Chief Inspector Brad Ebanks says the currents were strong in the area and it was "unlikely that we will make any recovery at this stage."

Lee had worked for Marvel and DC Comics on titles including Avengers, X-Men and Supergirl.

Dan Aykroyd to donate to family of slain Philadelphia cop

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dan Aykroyd plans to make a donation to the family of a Philadelphia police officer killed in the line of duty.

KYW-TV reports the actor made the announcement Friday while visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show to promote his vodka company.

Officer Robert Wilson III was buying a video game for



Aykroyd

his son while on duty Thursday when police say two brothers entered the store to rob it. Police say Wilson exchanged fire with the suspects and was shot multiple times in the body and head.

Police officials say the 8-year veteran saved lives by drawing fire away from other patrons in the store.

The suspects are charged with murder.

Vatican seeks to recover stolen Michelangelo letter

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican spokesman says authorities are working on recovering a letter written by Michelangelo that was stolen from an archive in 1997.

The Rev. Federico Lombardi said the Vatican has recently been offered the return of the letter in exchange for a payment, but that officials have refused. Instead, the spokesman said the matter has been turned over to the

Vatican gendarmerie for further investigation.

Lombardi was responding to a report in the Rome daily *il Messaggero* that said a former employee of a Vatican archive has asked a ransom of 100,000 euros (\$108,000) to return the letter.

According to *il Messaggero*, the letter is a rare example of Michelangelo's handwriting, and contains his signature.

Happy single man feels pressure from his friends

DEAR ABBY: I have never had a long-term relationship. My friends and family kept calling me out for it. I tried online dating and setups by friends and family, but nothing worked out. In fact, the constant questions only annoyed me more. With all my friends happily married and settled, I started resenting their intrusion into my life.

A couple of years ago, I decided to take a break from dating because I couldn't handle the stress anymore. Surprisingly, I enjoyed it. I never revealed this to my friends. After a few years of silence, my "well-wishers" began commenting again on my single status, and it annoys me to no end. I have started staying away from them.

Is there any way I can convince everyone that I am a normal straight male who just likes to be left alone? I enjoy get-togethers, as long as the topic of my singlehood doesn't become the joke of the day. Please advise.

PRETTY COOL DUDE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PRETTY COOL DUDE: Talk to some of your close friends and tell them you are happy being single. Tell them their comments about your single status and being made to feel like the "joke of the day" isn't funny to you — it's embarrassing. Tell them, just as you told me, that if it doesn't stop,

they will be seeing less of you. Friends will be sensitive to your feelings, although occasionally they still may try to fix you up because some people can't resist the urge to matchmake.

P.S. Because all of your friends are married, try to form some new relationships with single people.

DEAR ABBY: I attend a small church with two of my grandchildren, ages 5 and 10. About 90 percent of the time they are the ONLY children there. They are very active in the church and are the bell ringers, candle lighters and offering collectors. They partake in the welcoming and special prayers, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, sing songs and do communion when we have it.

I allow them to bring their iPads to occupy them during the sermon—on silent, of course. I feel that because they participate so much in all other areas and the "adult" sermon is usually over their heads, there is no harm done. My sister, however, insists it is rude and disrespectful. She is constantly getting after them, telling them to put their iPads away and pay attention.

None of the other church members have a problem with it, not even the pastor. What do you think? Should they be able to continue to keep occupied and not be disruptive to others, or should they power them down?

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



KEEPING THE PEACE IN MISSOURI

DEAR KEEPING THE PEACE: Right now those children are active, engaged and enthusiastic about participating in the services. I see nothing to be gained by forcing them to listen to a sermon they can neither relate to nor understand. Because the pastor and other church members have no objection to what your grandchildren are doing on their iPads, the person who should "power down" is your sister.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

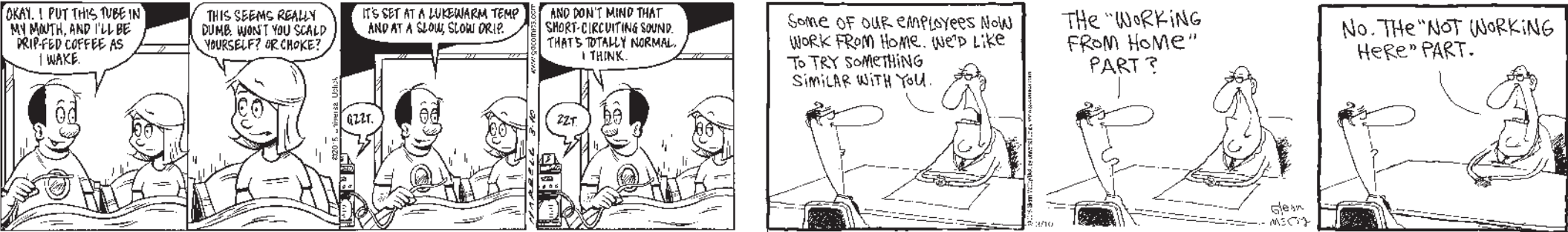
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 River through Kazakhstan

5 Early birds?

9 Turf

12 Creche

13 Ship-building wood

14 Before

15 Without flexibility

17 Moving truck

18 Lingerie items

19 Actress Richard-son

21 Intolerant one

24 "Death in Venice" author

25 Responsibility

26 Appeased

30 Schuss

31 Neaten eyebrows

32 Id partner

33 Group of symptoms

35 Slender

36 Ogled

37 Diver's worry

38 Flood protection

40 Big gulp

42 Rage

43 Hawaiian nut

48 Ever-green variety

49 Blueprint

50 Ripped

51 Supplement, with "out"

52 Have an inclination

53 Actor McGregor

2 "Awe-some, dude!"

3 Khan title

4 Bellies up to the bar?

5 Sicilian

6 Obtains

7 Lass

8 Seize an airplane

9 Girls' magazine

10 Exam format

11 Say it ain't so

16 Illustrations

20 — budget

21 Employer

22 Black

23 Camelot female

24 Spiked club

26 Trudge

27 Abner's old radio

28 "Zounds!"

29 Dresses in

31 Bump a TV episode

34 Coloring agent

35 Papal envoy

37 Auction action

38 Biography

39 Estrada or Satie

40 Read cursorily

41 Magic stick

44 Pub order

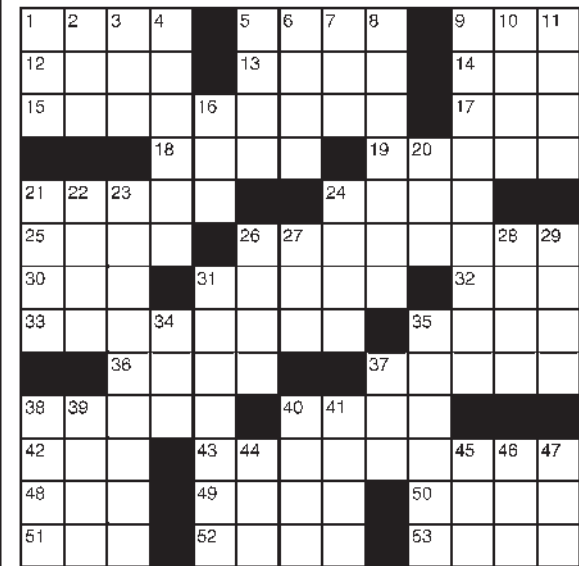
45 Tend the lawn

46 A Gershwin brother

47 Massachusetts cape

Solution time: 22 mins.

AWESOME DUST
SEA HORSE OS-O
PERUVIAN REAM
TJB SLEDGE
ALBUM SIAM
COOP SHAVIAN
ELL ALOHA LEE
LATVIAN CASK
AMPHE FOR
RIOT DILUVIAN
ILLS UNITED-Y
ALOE PAP DAE



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Wilde, 31; Carrie Underwood, 32; Jon Hamm, 44; Sharon Stone, 57.

Happy Birthday: Knowledge will lead to advancement. Learn all you can and apply your knowledge and experience to everyday life. Being open about what you want will help you reach your destination. Charm, coupled with the willingness to execute your plans with precision, will be your ticket to success. You will attract individuals who will improve your life and your prospects. Your numbers are 2, 10 14, 20, 26, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Firm up on any pending deals, settlements or legal changes you need to tend to. An opportunity is apparent if you are quick to act. Checking out job prospects will lead to an interesting vocational change. Love is highlighted. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't share personal secrets, but be up-front about the way you feel and what you plan to do. There is a fine line that must not be crossed when dealing with other people's affairs. Meddling or interference must be avoided. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take time to have some fun and to get to know new friends or neighbors. All work and no play will stifle your productivity. Romance and celebrations should be a priority. A kind gesture will have a stabilizing effect on your life. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Handle work-related matters effectively. Mistakes will make you look bad. Keep your

nose to the grindstone and do your best to take care of your responsibilities. It's what you accomplish that will make a difference. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes to your career or involvement in activities that help you become fit or healthy will encourage greater confidence and prestige. Don't let a negative individual slow you down. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stop dreaming and start doing. A short jaunt to visit a friend will provide you with information that will help you understand your options regarding your home and personal investments. Don't settle for less. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Step into the limelight. Your sophisticated way of doing things will be well-received by your peers. Your involvement in worthwhile organizations will lead to a multitude of opportunities. Partnerships are favored. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be touchy when it comes to domestic concerns. Try not to engage in discussions that will raise your blood pressure. Focus on a project that takes your mind off your worries and enables you to get closer to a goal you set. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your heart and soul into making your home a place of comfort and entertainment. Move things around or plan an open house. Make your home a hangout for close friends or group meetings. Romance is in the stars. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what you can do to promote greater security at work. Contributing original ideas that are geared toward work efficiency will set you apart from any competition you face. Be careful, as someone may try to take credit for your ideas. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your intellect and charm to get your way. Don't worry about what you can't do; focusing on your strengths will be sufficient. It's how you approach your responsibilities that will make an unforgettable impression. Love is highlighted. **



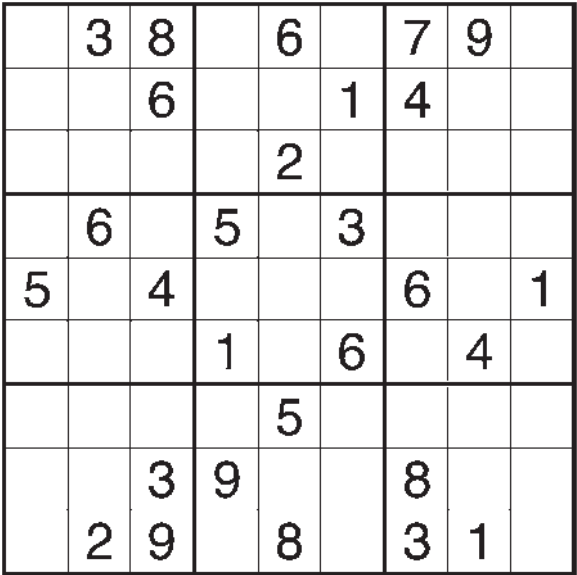
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will find it difficult to sit still and watch what's going on around you. If you plan to get involved, be prepared to go the distance. Stopping halfway will make you look bad and give someone a chance to take your place. *****



Birthday Baby: You are secretive, intuitive and sensitive. You are systematic, intense and goal-oriented. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

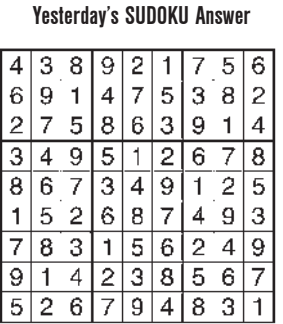
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 3/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★ 3/10

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE Solution: 5 letters



© 2015 Universal Jclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 3/10 Advisory, Airy, Below, Blanket, Blast, Blow, Breeze, Chill, Climates, Coffee, Colder, Extreme, February, Feel, Fires, Flurries, Frigid, Frost, Froze, Graupel, Gust, Hats, Heater, Heavy, Hot Chocolate, Ice Storm, Indoor, January, Kids, Lazy, Meteorologists, Mittens, November, Rain, Season, Shivering, Sleet, Slush, Snowfall, Teas, Warmth, Windy, Yell, Zero Yesterday's Answer: Portuguese To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 or 41, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

Warriors supporting cast steps up in win over Clippers



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry dribbled around his back and through a trio of defenders, stepped behind the arc and lofted an off-balance 3-pointer from the top of the circle that swished.

Curry made the dazzling play of the game, then his supporting cast did almost everything else to take the pressure off Golden State's do-it-all point guard.

"Nothing he does surprises me anymore," coach Steve Kerr said.

Draymond Green had 23 points and six assists and the Western Conference-leading Warriors beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-98 on Sunday for their sixth straight home victory.

Klay Thompson added 21 points on 9-for-13 shooting in the matinee with both teams leaving town and having a game Monday.

Shaun Livingston gave Golden State another nice lift off the bench with a season-best 21 points and eight rebounds in 28 minutes.

Curry, greeted by chants of "M-V-P!," didn't score his first field goal until 5:16 before half-time and finished with 12 points and four assists in the Warriors' seventh straight home win against the Clippers.

He put his team up 65-52 at the 8:44 mark of the third with the snazzy 3 under pressure. Kerr figured Curry thought the shot clock was winding down.

Nope. He just wanted to find his groove on a quiet day by his standards.

"I got a little bit of breathing room," Curry said. "Just a confidence shot."

With Curry drawing two defenders, Golden State is getting good at capitalizing on its 4-on-3 offensive chances.

Austin Rivers had 22 points



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) dribbles against Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, March 8, 2015.

off the bench and JJ Redick scored 18 points to lead Los Angeles in another physical, testy matchup between the rivals

after the Clippers eliminated Golden State in the first round of last season's playoffs.

The Clippers have lost five

in a row at Golden State and were again without Blake Griffin for a 12th straight game as he recovers from surgery to

remove a staph infection from his right elbow.

"I don't think they like us. I don't know why," Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers quipped. "Steve told me he didn't like me. We're the last team to knock them out, and they know that. So I think that adds to it."

Golden State lost 100-86 at Los Angeles on Christmas after beating the Clippers by 17 at Oracle Arena in early November. The teams combined for 15 of 60 from 3-point range on Dec. 25.

The home team has won each of the last 10 regular-season games. The rivals play once more on March 31 at Staples Center.

"We've never called it a rivalry," Curry said. "It's always competitive and usually a spirited game."

Thompson's three 3s pushed him past Kerr (726) on the NBA's all-time list.

Spurs 116, Bulls 105

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had a season-high 32 points as San Antonio beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Tim Duncan failed to make a basket for the first time in his career, ending his NBA-record streak at 1,310 games. He was 0 for 8 while and finished with three points.

Kawhi Leonard added 20 points, Patty Mills had 15 points and Manu Ginobili 14 for the Spurs.

Pau Gasol had 23 points and Aaron Brooks added 22 for Chicago.

Mavericks 100, Lakers 93

In Los Angeles, Monta Ellis scored 18 of his 31 points in the third quarter and Dallas closed with a 16-3 spurt in the final 6:36 to beat Los Angeles.

Dirk Nowitzki had 12 points for the Mavericks. They

played without point guard Devin Harris for the second straight game because of an injured right hand, but Chandler Parsons had 11 points and six rebounds in 35 minutes after missing seven games with a sprained left ankle.

Carlos Boozer had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers.

Magic 103, Celtics 98

In Orlando, Florida, Tobias Harris and Maurice Harkless combined for 16 points in the fourth quarter to help Orlando rally to beat Boston.

Victor Oladipo scored 22 points for the Magic, Harris had 21 and rookie Elfrid Payton added 19 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Isaiah Thomas scored 21 points for Boston. Brandon Bass added 19 points and 16 rebounds.

Hornets 108, Pistons 101

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Al Jefferson scored 24 points and streaking Charlotte beat Detroit in a matchup of Eastern Conference playoff hopefuls.

Mo Williams had 19 points and nine assists for the Hornets. They have won five straight to strengthen their bid for a post-season berth, while Detroit has dropped six in a row.

Reggie Jackson led the Pistons with 25 points.

Jazz 95, Nets 88

In New York, Gordon Hayward scored 24 points, including five straight to stop a Brooklyn rally, as Utah beat the Nets.

Former Nets forward Derrick Favors added 22 points and eight rebounds for the Jazz.

Utah won for the seventh time in nine games and finished off a 3-1 road trip.

Brook Lopez had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

Boeheim coaches final game of the season after NCAA ruling



RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Syracuse Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim still hasn't spoken publicly since the NCAA hit the school and his program with penalties for decade-long violations.

Boeheim skipped the post-game news conference after Saturday's 71-57 season-ending loss at North Carolina State. He instead issued a statement—as he did Friday after the NCAA announced its ruling—saying he would "more fully comment" on NCAA issues in the future and wanted the focus on his players.

"I'm as proud of this team as any I have ever coached," Boeheim said. "I think these players have done everything any and all of us could have asked them to do."

Boeheim sent longtime assistant coach Mike Hopkins to an-

swer questions about the game, while his players fielded questions from reporters in the visiting locker room. Hopkins said Boeheim didn't want to have to repeatedly decline comment to questions about the NCAA case.

The school had previously announced a one-year postseason ban amid the ongoing case, meaning the trip to Raleigh would end Boeheim's 39th season and keep the Orange out of next week's ACC tournament in Greensboro.

The NCAA wrapped things up Friday by hitting the school with penalties for academic, drug and gifts violations committed primarily by the men's basketball team. While the school faces financial penalties, scholarship reductions and five years of probation, Boeheim himself received a nine-game suspension for next year to be served during ACC games.

Boeheim's statement didn't



Syracuse's head coach Jim Boeheim yells to his team during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against North Carolina State at PNC Arena, Saturday, March 7, 2015, in Raleigh, N.C.

address his future, saying only that he would have no comment "as I consider my options moving forward."

"I want to make sure today, as we play our last game and are together for (the) last time as (a)

team, that the focus is on our players and all they have done to make our university proud," Boeheim said. "This should be the focus this afternoon and nothing else."

Still, his players may have felt

the weight of the Friday's news.

Junior Michael Gbinije at first said the issues weren't a distraction and that he tried to focus on what he could control on the court. Later, though, when asked whether it affected the team Saturday, Gbinije paused.

"Maybe, maybe," he said. "It's tough, it's not easy to go out and play with the news and everything. But I don't think that's an excuse of why we lost. I thought N.C. State just flat out played better than us tonight."

It might have been easier playing at home in the Carrier Dome. Instead, N.C. State fans were eager to greet Syracuse with reminders of the NCAA troubles.

Many stopped their "Wolf! Pack!" chant during Syracuse's starting lineups long enough to strongly boo Boeheim.

Others sang the chorus from the Village People's song "YMCA" during Syracuse's early possessions. It was a ref-

erence to some of the violations outlined by the NCAA, notably that a booster had provided more than \$8,000 in cash to three football and two men's basketball players for volunteering at a local YMCA.

Another fan held up a sign: "Jim, will play for grades."

When asked about people talking badly about Syracuse, guard Trevor Cooney responded: "I mean, I didn't commit anything. I didn't do anything. I just came here to play basketball."

Hopkins—a former Syracuse player under Boeheim—wouldn't comment about the ruling by the NCAA, choosing instead to praise a team that "just kept fighting."

As for his mentor, Hopkins became emotional when asked about watching Boeheim deal with the issues.

"Coach is a warrior. He's a superhero," Hopkins said, pausing to collect himself. "Superhero."

Dustin Johnson back to golf, back to winning



DORAL, Fla.

(AP)—The six-month break from the game raised more questions about Dustin Johnson's personal life than his golf. He said it gave him time to work on a little of each, and he delivered answers to both Sunday at the Cadillac Championship.

Johnson made up a five-shot deficit on J.B. Holmes and had a one-shot lead as he stood on the 18th tee at Trump National Doral, among the most daunting shots in golf. He produced his best drive all week, a monster shot that cleared the corner of the water and sent him to a routine par and a victory that never felt better.

He left the green holding his 7-week-old son, Tatum, with fiancée Paulina Gretzky at his side.

"I knew I was really good," Johnson said. "I knew there was something I was missing that could make me great. I was working hard on that, and I think it's showing right now. I'm so excited right now, I can't hardly talk. It feels great. This one definitely, by far, is the best one."

Johnson holed two big par putts from 20 feet and 10 feet that put him in the lead on a back nine of survival, seized control with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole and powered home to a 3-under 69 and a one-shot victory over Holmes.

It was his ninth career win, and second World Golf Championship title, and it returned him to the elite in golf at No. 7 in the world.

Still lingering are questions about his curious six-month



Dustin Johnson hits from the 11th fairway during the third round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Saturday, March 7, 2015, in Doral, Fla. AP

leave he announced in August that caused him to miss the final major and the Ryder Cup. He said it was to seek professional

help for "personal challenges." Golf.com reported he had failed a second cocaine test, the first one in 2012 when he missed

the Masters for what he called a back injury from lifting a jet ski from the water.

Johnson said again he has

never failed a drug test. He said he was done talking about it in an interview with The Associated Press in January, and when pressed anew about why he had not been more forthcoming with answers, Johnson replied, "Because it's personal and frankly, it's not really anybody's business."

In an interview before he returned, Johnson said he was handling stress through too much partying. He said he spent time with his future father-in-law—hockey great Wayne Gretzky—and a person he described as a life coach.

There are no questions about his golf. The swagger was back, especially as he closed in on a victory.

Johnson won in his fifth start back—Johnson lost in a playoff at Riviera and tied for fourth at Pebble Beach—and did what few others could manage at Doral. He never made worse than a bogey all week, and he didn't have a single three-putt.

"If he's won nine times out here, you're pretty good," Holmes said after making only one birdie in a round of 75.

Holmes lost his five-shot lead quickly, thanks to three bogeys in his opening five holes, and Masters champion Bubba Watson opening with four birdies in seven holes. Watson went from a five-shot deficit to a two-shot lead on the front nine, but three bogeys in a four-hole stretch on the back nine—two from bunkers, one from the palm trees—ended his big run. He closed with a 71 and finished two shots behind.

"A couple of shots, just missed the fairway by a few feet. Missed the green by a few feet. That's

what this golf course does," Watson said. "If you're just off, it can get to you real fast."

Holmes made his lone birdie with a 3-wood onto the green at the 293-yard 16th hole for a two-putt birdie that pulled him to within one shot. With no margin for error, Johnson was at his best over the closing two holes, especially the 18th with Holmes already in the fairway.

"I absolutely smashed it," Johnson said. "I wasn't worried about it getting over the lake. ... I played the hole the best I've played it all week. And it was a good time to do that."

Adam Scott (71) and Henrik Stenson (72) tied for fourth, though they were five shots behind.

Rory McIlroy got his 3-iron back, the one he heaved into the water on the eighth hole Friday. A diver retrieved and Donald Trump delivered it to him on the range. McIlroy used it on the 18th hole and hit into the water for a double bogey and a 72. The world's No. 1 player, who missed the cut in the Honda Classic last week, tied for ninth.

Johnson finished at 9-under 279, adding to the WGC title he won in Shanghai at the end of 2013. He was on top of his game, one of golf's most athletic figures who already had contended in three majors. Then came the indefinite leave. And now he's back.

"I've been working hard on my game and been working hard on me," Johnson said. "And so it means a great deal to have success right out of the gate. It gives me a lot of confidence, too."

Sources: Eagles add Gore, Maxwell, Sanchez, lose Maclin

ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



The Philadelphia Eagles aren't wasting any time filling major needs.

Two people familiar with the moves say five-time Pro Bowl running back Frank Gore, cornerback Byron Maxwell and quarterback Mark Sanchez have agreed to contracts with the Eagles. Meanwhile, three people with knowledge of the deal say Pro Bowl wide receiver Jeremy Maclin is leaving the Eagles to rejoin former coach Andy Reid in Kansas City.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday because the deals weren't finalized and can't be announced until the NFL's new season begins on Tuesday at 4 p.m. EDT.

Free agents were allowed to start negotiating with teams Saturday.

Gore leaves the San Francisco 49ers as the franchise's career rushing leader after 10 seasons. His contract is for three years and includes \$7.5 million guaranteed over the first two seasons. Gore will help replace

LeSean McCoy. The two-time All-Pro will be traded to the Buffalo Bills on Tuesday for linebacker Kiko Alonso.

Maxwell started 17 games for the Seattle Seahawks over the last two seasons and played opposite All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman in a star-studded secondary that includes All-Pro safety Earl Thomas and three-time Pro Bowl safety Kam Chancellor. His deal is for five years and reportedly is worth \$54 million with \$25 million guaranteed.

Sanchez joined the Eagles last year following five seasons with the New York Jets and started the final eight games after Nick Foles was injured. He's getting a two-year deal worth 9 million with \$5.5 million guaranteed.

Maclin becomes the latest offensive star to depart Philadelphia and the second wideout to leave after his best season. Kelly cut three-time Pro Bowl receiver DeSean Jackson last year.

The Eagles finished 10-6 for the season straight season under coach Chip Kelly, but didn't make the playoffs after a 1-3 finish. Kelly took control of personnel moves in the offseason and cleared plenty of cap space

SIDEBAR

Jets running back Chris Johnson shot in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—New York Jets running back Chris Johnson and another passenger were shot in their shoulders while stopped at a traffic light in Orlando early Sunday morning, and the driver of the vehicle they were in was killed.

The NFL player and the other passenger, Reggie Johnson, were in stable condition at a hospital Sunday. A person close to Johnson confirmed it was the running back who was involved. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on Johnson's behalf.

Sheriff's deputies said another vehicle pulled up to the Jeep

the men were in and opened fire. The Jeep's driver, Dreekus Oricko Johnson, was killed.

Deputies said no arrests had been made, and investigators were seeking witnesses to the shooting.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris and everyone impacted by this tragic event," the Jets said in a statement.

The shooting adds some uncertainty to Johnson's playing career. While he is expected to fully recover, Johnson, who will be 30 in September, is still officially on the Jets' roster but is due to become an unrestricted free agent on Tuesday, when the NFL's new league year begins. The Jets cut ties

with Johnson on Feb. 14, when they declined to exercise their contract option on him—meaning he will be free to sign with another team.

He was signed to a two-year, \$8 million deal by the Jets last April, after six years with the Tennessee Titans, to provide a versatile presence in the backfield. But, he had his worst statistical season while splitting time with Chris Ivory. He ran for 663 yards—his first season under 1,000—and one touchdown, while catching a career-low 24 passes for 151 yards and a score.

Johnson also rarely resembled the dynamic player with game-changing speed who

ran for 2,006 yards in 2009, earning him his "CJ2K" nickname while with the Titans. He rushed for 100 yards just once last season, when he had 105 on 17 carries, including a 47-yard scamper, against Miami last December.

While it likely didn't play a major role in the Jets' decision to part ways, Johnson also was arrested in Orlando in January on a misdemeanor weapons charge.

Johnson has rushed for 8,628 yards and 51 touchdowns and caught 296 passes for 2,154 yards and nine TDs in his NFL career after being a first-round pick out of East Carolina in 2008.

and safety Nate Allen will be free agents and aren't returning along with Williams.

Sanchez set a franchise record with a 64.1 completion percentage and threw for 2,418 yards with 14 TDs and 11 interceptions, going 4-4 as a starter.

last week by trading McCoy and releasing longtime starting offensive lineman Todd Herremans, linebacker Trent Cole and cornerback Cary Williams.

Gore, who turns 32 in May, ran for 1,106 yards and four touchdowns while averaging

4.3 yards per carry last season. Gore has 11,073 career yards rushing, 64 TDs and an average of 4.5 yards per carry. He also 342 receptions for 2,883 yards and 11 TDs. The durable Gore hasn't missed a game since 2010. He fits Kelly's preference

of a straight-ahead runner.

The 27-year-old Maxwell, a sixth-round pick in 2011, didn't start any games his first two seasons with the Seahawks. He'll join a secondary that is replacing three of its four starters. Cornerback Bradley Fletcher

Reggie Jackson to sell big letters from old Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP)—Some very big, familiar pieces of New York City sports history are going on the auction block—courtesy of a baseball star.

The 10-foot high letters that spelled “Yankee Stadium” atop the original Bronx ballpark are being offered for sale at Sotheby’s on April 1. The auction house has estimated that the letters will sell for \$300,000 to \$600,000.

The owner is Yankee legend Reggie Jackson.

Mr. October bought the letters after the Yankees’ last game at the stadium in 2008. They had adorned the ballpark, which was built in 1923, since 1976, so they were there when Jackson hit three consecutive home runs in the sixth game of the 1977 World Series.

The 68-year-old Hall of Famer, at spring training with the Yankees in Tampa, Florida, said through Sotheby’s that he wanted “a new generation to



This Sept. 21, 2008, file photo, shows the old Yankee Stadium in the Bronx borough of New York, on the evening of the final regular season game at the stadium.

own and enjoy this icon of the Yankees and of New York City.”

“There were a few items I wanted to purchase before the old Yankee Stadium was torn down, including my old locker and a section of the black bleachers off of centerfield,” he added. “But I kept thinking about the stadium lettering, and if there was any way for

me to own it. I ended up making an offer and was thrilled when it was accepted. It’s been a privilege to own such a recognizable piece of baseball history.”

Sotheby’s would not say how much Jackson paid for the letters.

Potential buyers will have to think about where to put the monumental letters. They range from 2 to 10 feet in

width. They light up electric blue and are constructed of aluminum casing with Plexiglas inserts.

The “N” and “Y” will be displayed on the seventh floor of Sotheby’s Manhattan galleries beginning March 26.

They will be part of Sotheby’s “New York Sale” auction of photos, prints, jewelry and other city-related material.

UFO league meeting today



Officials of the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League will hold a meeting tonight at 6pm at Paradise Hotel to discuss details for this Sunday’s opening.

Representatives of participating

teams in four divisions are requested to attend the meeting.

The league’s U15 division has three squads in Armatech, CNMI Rollers/Bayani and Demolay/AFP; U20 division has 670 Sonics/Lips, Blue Haus/NMBA, Jay Team/MDX, and Namfrel; 21 to 39 has Shirley’s/Bayani, Blue Haus/Boholano,

MJD Enterprises/Bicol, Gwap Gang/SIP, and Mobil/CNMI Power; and 40-and-above has Armatech/MDX, LBT/Visminda, DL Corp/Triskelion, MAFEA, Blue Haus/MIFICPA, and Lips.

Each team is also required to submit only a 12-player roster, while registration fees are as follows: \$350 in U15, \$400 in U20, \$600 in Open, and \$550 in the Masters.

Teams participating in the U15 divi-

sion will play first in the opener, while games in the Masters, U21, and Open will also take place in the kick-off date. Teams seeing action in the opener will be determined via raffle drawing.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Pepe Crisostomo at 483-1997, Edward Manalili at 483-4337, Marlon Regaton at 989-9836, or Pete Reyes at 9897-317 or send email to ufo.saipan@gmail.com. (**UFO**)

ISHIKAWA

From Page 28

awaki, 6-0, 6-1. Earlier in her first game, Ishikawa topped Conatsu Kaga, 6-1, 6-2, to march into the semifinals. Ishikawa kept her momentum in the first set of her title match against Sakano, winning by four points, but failed to close the finale early when the latter bounced back in the second set. In the deciding third set, Ishikawa regained her bearings to clinch her first division tiara this season and also her first in the same tournament. Last year, Ishikawa fell to eventual champion Isabel Heras in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Coume Kaga and Ad-

itya Rai completed the tournament’s junior singles champions’ list, joining earlier winners Robbie Schorr, Luther Lizama, and Carol Lee.

Kaga defended her girls U12 championship after working out a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Erika Tuttle in last Sunday’s finale.

The victory did not only hand Coume her second straight division crown in the same competition, but also avenged her title loss to Tuttle in last month’s Coconut Classic. Conatsu bowed to Tuttle, 4-6, 3-6, in the second tournament of the season and during the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic she also fell short in her title bid, losing to older sister Conatsu.

Before settling the score with Tut-

tle, Coume downed Soleil Lamar, 6-1, 6-1, and Maria Gregoire, 7-6, 6-0, to make it to the finals. Gregoire won over Tiara Imai, 6-3, 6-4, to set a semis date with Coume.

Tuttle, on the other hand, defeated Erie Ortega, 6-0, 6-2, and Riko Ojima in the semis, 6-1, 6-3, to arrange a finals rematch with Coume, who prevailed in last year’s PIC tournament against Jireh Warren, 6-4, 6-7 (9-3), 6-2. Ojima advanced to the semis following a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 triumph against Ellie Epley, while Ortega eliminated Maaya Sato, 6-4, 6-1.

In the boys U12 age group, Rai survived two three-set matches in one day to win the division championship.

Rai first outlasted Sean Lee in the

semifinals early Sunday afternoon, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, and then slipped past Ji Min Woo in the finals, 7-6, 4-6, 6-0, to rule the seven-player field and get his second division title this season. Rai claimed his first U12 division during the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Rai was in the lower half of the draw in last weekend’s tournament and marched into the semis after sweeping Paik Seung Jin, 6-2, 6-0. Lee took the long route to his semis showdown with Rai after outclassing Daniel Kang in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

In the upper half of the draw’s semis pairing, Woo nailed a 6-3, 6-3 win over Coconut Classic champion Rintaro Miyawaki, a 6-1, 6-1 victor against Chris Kim.

CRUZ

From Page 28

Decena, a pilates instructor at Gold’s Gym, is no stranger to competition after winning last year’s Supermom and placing third behind winner Ferleen Esmundo in the bikini division of the 2013 Dee Clayton Classic.

The mother of five said that she wants to be a role model to others like her that it is not too late to get fit.

“I want to be a role model and become an inspiration to other mothers on Saipan that you can still achieve the body and weight that you desire,” said Decena, who arrived on Saipan in 2000.

“Working out, lifting weights, or do-

ing any physical activity is a way to relieve you of everyday stress. I encourage everyone to do the same for you to enjoy a longer life,” Decena added.

She was saddened that only her and Valerie De Mesa joined last Saturday’s competition. “There were four of us in 2013. A lot would love to join but they’re not yet ready for the competition. I hope to see them next time.”

Marck A. Calage placed second to Cruz while Anthony Agulto, Won Jong Seo, and Joseph Taitano are the other competitors in the junior men’s physique.

Gerald Galang, who placed second in the men’s physique of last year’s Dee Clayton Classic, again had a runner-up finish. Enrcio Valdez also joined the event.

NMIFA

From Page 28

also present at the event.

Players were divided into five age groups—U8, U10, U12, and U14—and each had about one-hour session with the facilitators.

The U14 division drew the most participants with 17 and the list included Paire Football Club’s Guinevere Borja, Jessme Jones, Sharmaine and Shiann Cabrera, and Anela Duenas; Shirley’s FC’s Jerlyn Castillo, Katherine Magat, Samantha Manacop, Jasmin Phan, and Mia Carreon; Kanoa FC’s Princess Alcantara, Theresa Toves, Nikkie Maanao, and Ericka Santiago;

and Hopwood Junior High School’s Cherry Acbo, and Annverose and Dianavher Naanep.

In the U12 division, MP United players Julianne Hall, Maury Zon Tybaco, Maaya Sato, Erie Ortega, Ellie Epley, and Maya Shimizu led the list. There were joined by Matansa’s Barbara Peteru, Paire’s Lilian Podziewski and Sunny Hyun, Shirley’s FC’s Katrina Costales, San Vicente Elementary School’s Victoria Torres, Oleai’s Joana Signio, Jenny Capayas, Lovely Loyola, and Thereze Ray Millari.

MP United also had the most participants in the U10 age group with Aubrey Ricci and Audre Lizbeth Castro, Miyuki Takayama, Stephanie Kim, Angela Zu, and Meng Xi Zheng on

the list. Completing the field were Tan Holdings’ Nicole Lumbad and Riza Relucio, San Vicente’s Francine Albuen and Aiyana Celis, Paire’s Soleil Lamar, Kanoa’s Sophia Quintos, Oleai’s Berlianna Higgins, Lata Paongo, Claire Park, and Julian Capayas.

In the U8 division, Tan Holdings FC had five representatives in Mariana Katherine Angeles, Andrei Kaithlyn and Julie Anne Chavez, Dream Jayna Mariano, and Kaye Ann Costales. Others on the list were MP United’s Jessiana Tenorio and Kyla Park, Paire’s Davina Chae, Matansa’s Mele Paongo, and Angela Quan.

“The Top 5 players from each group got a soccer ball from NMIFA, while all the participants and women coaches

got a specially designed shirt provided by AFC. All participants also got a certificate from NMIFA,” Zapanta said.

“Judging from their reactions, the kids really had fun. Parents were also enthusiastic for their kids, who asked to be dropped at the field on time. Some parents were thankful to NMIFA for organizing events like this for their kids. They said that it is really good that there are activities that encourage kids to be outdoors, doing physical activities rather than staying at home watching TV or playing with their computers,” the NMIFA official added.

Zapanta also said the event will be an annual activity for NMIFA and next year (March 13 or 20) they are planning to make it a whole-day affair.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	25	.603	—
Boston	25	36	.410	12
Brooklyn	25	36	.410	12
Philadelphia	14	49	.222	24
New York	12	49	.197	25

Southeast Division

x-Atlanta	49	13	.790	—
Washington	35	28	.556	14½
Charlotte	28	33	.459	20½
Miami	28	34	.452	21
Orlando	21	43	.328	29

Central Division

Cleveland	40	25	.615	—
Chicago	39	25	.609	½
Milwaukee	33	29	.532	5½
Indiana	28	34	.452	10½
Detroit	23	39	.371	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	44	18	.710	—
Houston	43	20	.683	½
Dallas	41	24	.631	4½
San Antonio	39	23	.629	5
New Orleans	34	29	.540	10½

Northwest Division

Portland	41	20	.672	—
Oklahoma City	35	28	.556	7
Utah	26	36	.419	15½
Denver	22	41	.349	20
Minnesota	14	47	.230	27

Pacific Division

Golden State	49	12	.803	—
L.A. Clippers	40	23	.635	10
Phoenix	33	31	.516	17½
Sacramento	21	40	.344	28
L.A. Lakers	16	46	.258	33½

x-clinched playoff spot

CADILLAC CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DORAL, Florida (AP) — Final results Sunday from the Cadillac Championship, a U.S. PGA Tour event at the par-72, 7,528-yard Trump National Doral course:

FINAL ROUND

Dustin Johnson (550), \$1,570,000	68-73-69-69=279
J.B. Holmes (315), \$930,000	62-73-70-75=280
Bubba Watson (200), \$540,000	71-69-70-71=281
Adam Scott (128), \$365,000	70-68-75-71=284
Henrik Stenson (128), \$365,000	69-71-72-72=284
Louis Oosthuizen (105), \$270,000	71-74-67-73=285
Bill Haas (92), \$215,000	74-73-65-74=286
Webb Simpson (92), \$215,000	74-69-70-73=286
Kevin Na (78), \$163,333	74-71-71-71=287
Rory McIlroy (78), \$163,333	73-70-72-72=287
Ryan Moore (78), \$163,333	66-71-74-76=287
Rory Fowler (62), \$123,000	68-77-71-72=288
Jim Furyk (62), \$123,000	70-73-76-69=288
Ryan Palmer (62), \$123,000	71-70-74-73=288
Lee Westwood (62), \$123,000	71-72-70-75=288
Danny Willett, \$123,000	73-76-71-68=288
Morgan Hoffmann (52), \$97,500	73-71-71-74=289
Brooks Koepka (52), \$97,500	69-74-73-73=289
Shane Lowry, \$97,500	71-74-70-74=289
Brandt Snedeker (52), \$97,500	74-73-70-72=289
Jordan Spieth (52), \$97,500	75-69-73-72=289
Marc Warren, \$97,500	73-75-69-72=289
Thomas Aiken, \$83,000	78-69-72-71=290
Ross Fisher, \$83,000	78-71-69-72=290
Mikko Ilonen, \$83,000	78-72-67-73=290
Matt Kuchar (45), \$83,000	73-75-70-72=290
Hideki Matsuyama (45), \$83,000	76-72-72-70=290
Patrick Reed (45), \$83,000	71-73-71-75=290
Brendon Todd (45), \$83,000	72-73-72-73=290
Gary Woodland (45), \$83,000	70-74-76-70=290
Jason Day (37), \$72,000	76-74-70-71=291
Sergio Garcia (37), \$72,000	73-69-71-78=291
Martin Kaymer (37), \$72,000	71-76-71-73=291
Phil Mickelson (37), \$72,000	74-74-71-72=291
John Senden (37), \$72,000	73-70-74-74=291
Jimmy Walker (37), \$72,000	71-76-70-74=291
Bernard Wiesberger, \$72,000	74-74-71-72=291
Keegan Bradley (31), \$65,500	73-74-75-70=292
Paul Casey (31), \$65,500	75-73-72-72=292
Charley Hoffman (31), \$65,500	70-74-72-76=292
Alexander Levy, \$65,500	68-73-79-72=292
Marcel Siem, \$65,500	78-72-75-67=292
Cameron Tringale (31), \$65,500	73-74-72-73=292
Jamie Donaldson (27), \$61,500	70-72-76-75=293
Charl Schwartzel (27), \$61,500	71-72-75-75=293
Sangmoon Bae (24), \$59,000	75-71-73-75=294
Billy Horschel (24), \$59,000	72-75-75-72=294
Joost Luiten, \$59,000	79-69-73-73=294
Greg Chalmers (20), \$55,000	77-72-73-73=295
Luke Donald (20), \$55,000	72-76-74-73=295
Jason Dufner (20), \$55,000	79-71-71-74=295
Zach Johnson (20), \$55,000	76-73-73-73=295
Ian Poulter (20), \$55,000	74-78-71-72=295
Branden Grace, \$52,000	75-74-72-75=296
Justin Rose (16), \$51,000	73-74-73-77=297
Russell Henley (13), \$48,000	74-74-72-78=298
Chris Kirk (13), \$48,000	76-77-73-72=298
Graeme McDowell (13), \$48,000	76-77-73-72=298
Alexander Noren, \$48,000	73-77-74-74=298
Robert Streb (13), \$48,000	72-80-72-74=298
Geoff Ogilvy (10), \$45,500	74-76-74-75=299
Victor Dubuisson (8), \$44,750	72-73-70-85=300
Steven Jeffress, \$44,750	75-74-78-73=300
David Lipsky, \$44,750	74-73-76-77=300
Hunter Mahan (6), \$44,250	75-79-74-74=302
Stephen Gallacher, \$43,875	84-72-78-69=303
Danie van Tonder, \$43,875	74-74-75-80=303
Koumei Oda, \$43,500	74-78-73-79=304
Thongchai Jaidee, \$43,250	80-73-76-76=305
Gary Stal, \$43,000	75-79-77-75=306
Tommy Fleetwood, \$42,625	77-77-73-80=307
Anirban Lahiri, \$42,625	80-76-74-77=307
Hiroyuki Fujita, \$42,250	75-83-78-79=315

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gideon nips Joshua; Caleb routs Jeremiah

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Gideon and Caleb downed their respective foes in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League in contrasting fashion last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Caleb played in the curtain-raiser and romped past Jeremiah, 81-65, while Gideon eked out a 65-63 overtime victory over Joshua in the nightcap.

Bradley Demapan top-scored for Gideon with his 15 points, but it was Joel Buniag and Allan David's heroics in the extension period that helped the team gain its second win in three games.

Buniag tied the match for the last time, 62-all, after Donnel Isip missed a layup that would have given Joshua a 4-point cushion. Before the sorry miss, Isip canned back-to-back triples in the opening minutes of the overtime to put Joshua on top, 62-60.

Joshua had a chance to reclaim the lead in the ensuing play, but David deflected an inbound pass under the goal and completed the big defensive stop with his layup that gave Gideon the upper hand, 64-62.

Despite the error, Joshua still had an opportunity to stay in the game when Allan Chavez was fouled on the other end, but



Gideon players pose for a group photo before their game against Joshua in the 4th Genesis Cup last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

he split his charities, allowing Gideon to keep the lead, 64-63. Chavez muffed the second free throw and there was a scramble for the rebound with Buniag winning and later drawing a foul from a Joshua defender in the closing seconds of the tight match. Buniag also had a split to peg the final score, as Isip, who got the rebound off the former's second free throw miss, ran out of time to pull up for a game-tying shot.

Gideon stole the win in over-

time after failing to take the victory in regulation, as one of its players went only 1-for-2 from the stripe to force the deadlock, 56-all.

In the first game, Caleb went all out in the second half to rout Jeremiah and join Gideon in second place in the team standings behind Isaiah (2-0) and Daniel (2-0). Jeremiah fell to a 0-3 record to remain at the cellar of the eight-team field.

Michael Cabanas led Caleb's second-half breakaway, knocking in 15 of his game-high 23 points in the final 20 minutes of play. Before Cabanas' explosion, Caleb only went up by 4 points after the first half, 42-38.

Arvin Bacani backed Cabanas up, chipping in 15, while Rodel Morales, Roy Ocanada, and Joseph Gatlula combined for 27 more points.

Jay Nunag led Jeremiah's

losing cause with his 21 points, while Mark Rabago and Gener Cabaoas contributed 13 and 12, respectively.

First Game

Caleb 81 – Cabanas 23, Bacani 15, Morales 11, Gatlula 8, Ocanada 8, Sacdalan 5, Hudleston 4, Gozon 4, Castro 3.

Jeremiah 65 – Nunag 21, Rabago 13, Cabaoas 12, Formales 8, Lizardo 4, Deang 4,

Casuncad 3, Castro 2.

Scoring by halves: 42-38, 81-65.

Second Game

Gideon 65 – Demapan 15, Borja 11, Sablan 9, Buniag 8, David 6, Santos 6, Palma 6.

Joshua 63 – Gonzales 22, Isip 15, Chavez 13, Abe 4, Sayas 4, Calub 4, Dequito 1.

Scoring by halves: 30-30, 56-56, 65-63 (OT).

Teams positioning in SEDA standings

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

There are no clear division leaders yet in the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter-Spring season after two weeks of action.

Four or five teams are either tied on the standings or are separated only by two or three wins.

In the Masters division alone, the Jokers Destroyers are only ahead by two (23-11) after a 14-3 win over the Sand Juvy Pythons.

The Sand Juvy TDI Summit is in second (21-13) following a 10-7 decision

against the Jokers Darting Chelu's while the Jokers Scratch 'N' Sniff (19-5) nipped the Sand Juvy Shoot Balut, 9-8.

Ladies

- Darties 9, Pasawayz 6
- Kitty Kats 10, Try Luck 5



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Naked Fish Ridin' Darty are currently in the middle of the standings in the A division.

A Division

- Mafia 10, Snipers 7
- No Fear 11, Huntlaw 6
- Ridin' Darty 11, Warriors 6
- Predators 10, 101 Proofer 7
- Voyagers 9, Sakude 8

Tuesday

- Titans 10, Barcode 5
- Pasaway 12, Dabarkads 3
- Atarashi Boyz 12, Dartaholics 3

Flame Tree

- Snipers 12, No Fear 3
- Na'Gupu 13, Ridin' Darty 2
- Oneshot 8, Real Deal 7
- Kyodai 9, Serial Killaz 6

Fanihi

- Dragon Warriors 11, Sunrisers 4
- Mixblood Shooters III 11, Team Fearless 4
- Latte Sparts 9, Preba Darts 6
- 80 Proofer 12, VFW Warriors 3

Chichirika

- Tokers 14, Breakers 1
- Darty Flight 11, Blue Koi 4
- Jump It 10, Bull-It 5

Kingfisher

- Spartans 10, Searicks 5
- Dart Knights 10, Chagi Fan 5
- Hafa Mas 8, High Flyers 7

Fiesta, Saipan Stevedore trip opponents in business caging

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Saipan Stevedore tripped their respective foes in the continuation of the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League last Thursday at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta, one of the favorites that could threaten Pacific Island Club Saipan's title bid, pulled away early in the game to cruise to a 93-80 win over Docomo Pacific, while Saipan Stevedore used a strong third quarter as cushion in completing a 50-49 win against Marpac.

Seldom-used Reynan Lansang scattered 12 points in the first half to help Fiesta establish a 44-30 spread at the turn.

Matt Duenas and Lerio Pagarao then took over after that to keep Docomo at bay and complete Fiesta's third straight win.

Duenas paced Fiesta with 18 points, Lansang had 15, while Pagarao tallied 12. Five other players scored 6 or more with Elmer Esdrelon and R.J. Nonato combining for 16 markers.

Tony Diaz led Docomo with 31, while Robert Sanciango added 18 markers. Ja-

son Hayes and Rick Sanchez chipped in 8 points apiece.

In the first game, Mike Olaitiman and Nathan Kapileo finished with 15 and 14 points to lead Saipan Stevedore to a 50-49 win and in the process snap a three-game slide.

Frank Mettao was the lone Marpac player to finish in double figures with 20.

First Game

Fiesta 93 – Duenas 18, Lansang 15, Pagarao 12, Esdrelon 8, Nonato 8, Dimafelix 6, Macoto 6, Pablo 6, De Dios 4, Lavarias 4, Galag 2, Maratita 2.

Docomo 80 – Diaz 31, Sanciango 18, Hayes 8, Sanchez 8, Mendiola 4, White 3, Guerrero 2, P. Guerrero 2, McCale 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-12, 44-30, 70-50-93-80.

Second Game

Saipan Stevedore 50 – Olaitiman 15, Kapileo 14, Acosta 8, Cabildo 5, Coloma 5, Atinson 2, Caparon 1.

Marpac 49 – Mettao 20, Lee 8, Diyco 6, Sablan 6, Castro 5, Alvarez 2, Pagcaliwagan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 21-21, 37-31, 50-49.





**Gideon nips Joshua; Caleb
routes Jeremiah**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Warriors
supporting cast
steps up in win
over Clippers**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

Ishikawa outlasts Sakano in U14 finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Julia Ishikawa needed three sets to thwart Mimi Sakano in their title showdown in the girls U14 division of the 15th PIC Tennis Championships.



Ishikawa pulled off a tough 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over Sakano last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts to bag her first U14 division crown under the 2014-2015 calendar of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association. Ishikawa missed a podium finish in the season-opening Tan Holdings Tennis Classic and did not compete in last month's Coconut Classic. Tania Tan and Sakano were the division champions in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic and Coconut Classic, respectively.

Sakano moved closer to her bid for back-to-back division titles when she defeated Asia Raulerson in the semifinals of the upper bracket, 6-3, 6-1. Raulerson advanced to the semis following a 6-1, 6-2 victory against Grace Choi.

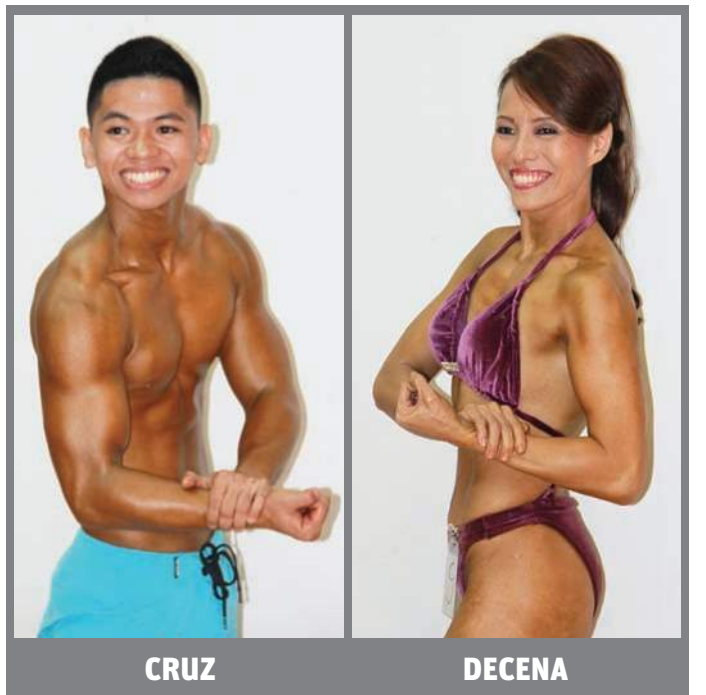
Ishikawa also took only two sets to make it to the finals after easing past Malika Miy-

See ISHIKAWA on Page 26



Julia Ishikawa goes for a return against Mimi Sakano during their girls U14 singles title match in the 15th PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CRUZ

DECENA

Cruz, Decena want to be an inspiration

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior men's physique champion Nathaniel Cruz and women's division winner Ella Decena are hoping to inspire others to be physically fit and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Cruz, Decena, and Gilbert O. Aldan earned the judges' nods to top their respective divisions. Aldan ruled the senior men's physique category.

Cruz, a senior at Marianas High School who placed third in last year's Dee Clayton Classic, said he it was his older brother Christian who introduced him to bodybuilding that's why he wants to encourage other teenagers to try it.

"My brother inspired me to lift weights. He was the first one to take up bodybuilding and I want

other youth to do the same. To have a physical activity, to keep them away from vices," said Cruz, who is planning to join a future bodybuilding event.

"Bodybuilding is not that easy since you will have to follow a strict diet and have to work out everyday."

He added that he prepared for three months in order to achieve his desired body definition that earned him his first win in a physique competition.

Cruz will go to college in the Philippines where he hopes to take up a course either in business management or computer science.

"I'm still choosing a university but my goal is to also compete in Manila, so I could be well-known in the Philippines," Cruz added with a laugh.

See CRUZ on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last weekend's AFC Women's Football Day pose for a group photo before joining the activities at the Oleai Spots Complex Field.

NMIFA joins AFC Women's Football Day

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association joined the rest of the world in celebrating AFC Women's Football Day last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Fifty-eight youth players participated in the event that also coincided with the International Women's Day, according to NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta.

"Asian Football Confederation designated the same day as AFC Women's Football Day and asked all member associations to have activities for female players. To support NMIFA, AFC provided 100 shirts

and 100 bibs," Zapanta said.

Participants in the weekend event that started at 8am and ended at 12pm were taught various warm-up game drills and skills and played in small-sided games. NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi led

the activities and was assisted by former Olympian Luam Khen Koo and Takemoto

Suzuki of Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong), Saipan Soccer School's Jerish Angeles, Mae Ito, Ruselle Zapanta, Irish Pagarao, Jeralyn Castillo, and Christy Villafior and NMIFA's Gigi Zapanta, while NMIFA president Jerry Tan and vice president Vickie Izuka were

See NMIFA on Page 26

